



COVERING THE UNDERGROUND MUSIC SCENE SINCE 2004

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Mark McNeill 250-361-8424



Absolute Underground's Summer Festival Guide:

Festival **Spotlights**

COVENANT FESTIVAL

When: June 16-18 Where: Hindenburg, Vancouver BC Genre(s): Black Metal, Neofolk/

This summer will mark the second year of operation for Vancouver's Covenant Festival, a celebration of Death's music that spans the gamut of evil with



black metal, death metal, neofolk, and ambient acts, both international and local

Covenant got its start as a yearly vinyl night by a close group of friends. "This has been something that we've wanted to do for many years, and finally the time was right," says Covenant member Sebastien Montesi. "After a few years of the occasional vinyl night, as well as putting on shows for Antediluvian, Loss, Impiety, Absu, Marduk, and more, we were ready to make this happen." He adds that Convenant is part of a greater global mentality of underground dark music. "It was high time Vancouver had a gathering that tied together dark death/black/doom metal, neo-folk, strange rock, post-industrial, and beyond."

After its successful inaugural event last year, the occult music celebration has expanded its horizons, growing into a multi-day event that features some larger out-of-town headliners.

"Getting Taake over here will really be something unique obviously," says Montesi of this year's lineup, "But I am personally most eagerly anticipating seeing the more mid-sized bands such as She'ol, Funeral Throne, Blood Incantation, Spectral Voice, and Ascended Dead, who are making a big trip to make this festival special." Montesi adds that the group is particularly anticipating the Black Twilight Circle invasion. "Their circle of bands is one of the most respected in the underground, and having them up here will be something truly singular!"

This year's Covenant festival will once again be taking place at Hindenburg, at 23 W Cordova, and will include a black metal merch market.

Tickets are available in advance from Red Cat. Neptoon, and Highlife Records in Vancouver, as well as online from ticketweb.ca.

More information and festival updates at facebook.com/covenantfestival/

LEVITATION VANCOUVER 2016

When: June 16-19 Where: Various Venues, Vancouver BC

Genre(s): Experimental, psychedelic, shoegaze, punk

For the second June in a row, Vancouver is transforming into a music-lover's paradise. Local

concert promoter Timbre Concerts, in a partnership with the Texas-based Reverberation Appreciation Society, is presenting another iteration of the Levitation Vancouver. The fourday event, which



also occurs in Austin, Chicago, and Paris, is mainly a celebration of psychedelic-focused music; however, it also crosses over into other disparate musical realms. Sure, there are a handful of bands featuring scruffy hippies goofing off with wahwah pedals, but the lineup also takes turns into experimental dance music, ear-piercing shoegaze, sloppy garage, punishing sludge metal, and rapidfire skate-punk. Headliners Flying Lotus and Tycho are sure to provide standout performances, but their electronic-focused offerings don't really fit in with what we at #Absolute Underground do#. With that, here are some undercard picks for the punks, metalheads, weirdos, and scumbags.

White Lung:

White Lung has emerged from the local Vancouver scene to become one of the most exciting bands in the contemporary punk world. Their latest LP, #Paradise#, is both their catchiest and nastiest, perfectly showcasing the marriage of quitarist Kenneth William's innovative fretwork and vocalist Mish Way's sardonic snarl. The best Van City punk band since D.OA.? You tell me.

FIDLAR:

Love 'em or hate 'em, this LA four-piece is one of the hottest acts around. Their latest LP, the cheekily titled #Too#, expands on the, "I drink cheap beer / so what? / Fuck you!" youthful recklessness of of their first LP, while also showcasing a maturity and sonic experimentation found in songs like "Overdose" and the Ramones-esque "Drone." Their Friday main-stage performance under the setting sun at should prove to be a rowdy highlight for most festivalgoers.

With their home on Relapse records, tattoocovered members, and nihilistic band name and song titles, it could be easy to mistake this Philly four-piece for a brutal grind band. However, the band's sound is more My Bloody Valentine than Pig Destroyer. Nothing is most certainly a shoegaze band, but the guys do all have backgrounds in metal and hardcore. This injects a fuzzy grunge edge into their otherwise dreamy

The Flatliners:

These Ontarians may have originally started out as a hyper-caffeinated ska-core band, but have developed into a muscular power-punk act to the tune of numerous stand-out LPs and 7" on labels like Fat Wreck Chords, Stomp, and New Damage. Sand-paper-throated frontman Chris Cresswell is one of the best, and these guys possess a seemingly endless arsenal of sing-along punk-

Sumac:

Sumac is the heaviest band on the Levitation lineup, if not one of the heaviest fucking bands on the planet. In a world of seemingly endless "super-groups," these guys are the real deal, boasting members from crushers like Isis, Botch, Baptists, and fellow Levitation-ites Russian Circles. Bandleader Aaron Turner is a legend of the postmetal scene, and his latest project continues that storied lineage.

Culture Abuse:

One of Nothing's tour-mates on the jaunt to Vancouver, this San Francisco-based group performs a noisy brand of punk that can range from sunny power-pop to discordant hardcore. Their latest LP, Peach, is a supremely diverse rock record that proves Culture Abuse is an up-andcoming force of the West-Coast scene.

WRONG:

This Miami quartet is the other piece of Nothing's tour package, and man, what a combination of bands it is. WRONG features former members of Kvlesa and Torche, but eschews the sludgy stylings of the aforementioned groups in favour of a sound more rooted in wall-punching noise rock. Their blooming catalogue on Relapse proves that WRONG is a worthy addition to the iconic

together PANGEA:

At last count, there were roughly 3,567 sleazy garage-punk bands based in LA. Yes, together PANGEA is one of them, but they may be the best of the lot. What sets the quartet apart from the rest of the bleach-haired masses is the infectious songwriting of guitarist/vocalist William Keegan. Tracks like "Offer" and "Looked in Too" showcase a deft ability to assemble tracks with the perfect balance of punk spirit and melodic accessibility.

Other punk picks: Youth Decay, Thee Oh Sees. Other metal/hard rock picks: Russian Circles, Waingro, Dead Meadow.

-Bv Michael Luis





ARMSTRONG METALFEST

When: July 15 - 16 Where: Hassen Arena, Armstrong BC Genre(s): Metal

This summer will mark the eighth year of operation for the quintessential Western Canadian metal festival, Armstrong Metalfest. A two-day arena show that takes place on extensive festival grounds, Armstrong boasts not only a killer lineup, but metal vendors, a market, and many fun and ridiculous extracurricular events. These events are staggered with the music so that everyone can attend their favourites, whether it be the 100-Man Shotgun, the Beer Helmet March, or Thrash Wrestling.

Coordinator Jesse Valstar gave us some details on the main improvements to this year's festival. "We have worked harder on this year's fest than any other," he says. "Just over 75% of the bands were chosen from band submissions, as opposed to years prior, [when that number] was closer to

He adds that the extra activities will also see some upgrades, "There will be more prizing for the Beer Helmet March, we will have the "Vinny Cup" and two passes to 2017 going to first place."

Featuring a bigger and better lineup than ever, Armstrong's stage will be graced with the likes of Beyond Creation, Rivers of Nihil, and The Zenith Passage, as well as local Western names like Nylithia, Dayglo Abortions, Archspire, and Unleash the Archers.

For Valstar, while music is paramount, it's the atmosphere that really makes AMF. "The camping makes this festival what it is," he says. "Having a metal family gathering makes every year worth every second! Camping events, the 100-Man, Beer Helmet March, Slip 'n Slide, late-night Red Rover... It's the Okanagan valley, right in the middle of beautiful BC. [Plus], we have flush toilets and real showers, free of charge."

Valstar advises (and we second this heartily) to bring your own drinking

continued next page



2915 Douglas St. Victoria BC 250-382-5111 continued next page

water, and a pool to cool off in, as July in the Okanagan can get blisteringly hot.

To keep up-to-date on all goings-on AMF, stay tuned to https://armstronametalfest.ca/

CALGARY METALFEST

When: Sept 14 - 17 Where: Various Venues, Calgary AB Genre(s): Metal

Now in its fifth year of operation, Calgary Metalfest has quickly become a solid institution in the Western Canadian metal scene. Presented by Big Nate Productions and Hubb Music, this year's festival promises bigger and better than ever, with shows at The Ship & Anchor, Distortion, Dickens, and a finale at Flames Central.

"This year, we have really kicked up the calibre of the festival," says organizer Nate Reno, "We have had to find a bigger venue for the finale on Saturday, September 17th, in Flames Central. We are excited about this as we are avid concertgoers ourselves, and look forward to working with them to make it the most seamless event there yet!"

The finale itself features a roster of historic Canadian metal; Annihilator will be making their

first Western Canadian appearance since 1993, Razor and Sacrifice will be returning for their first Calgary performances since Noctis, and Exciter will be performing with their original lineup. The night will also feature a special last-call appearance by Gatekrashör.

"This is a truly historic night of Canadian metal, and will most likely never happen again," says Reno, "nor has it before, anywhere... Four powerhouse acts in one night will make it one to remember. Usually shows like this happen in Vancouver or Toronto, so having it in Calgary exclusively makes it special. We have added an

interactive VIP package that allows you to into soundchecks, a band meet-and-greet, and access to the VIP during the show," he adds, "Hog heaven for the uber-fan."

The rest of the lineup will be announced via the website, so stay tuned to http://www. calgarymetalfest.com/ for updates.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to info@bignateproductions.com

Festival Listings

--- BRITISH COLUMBIA ---

Have A Good Laugh – June 9-12 Various Locations Vancouver, BC Genre(s): Punk, crust, goth

Presented by Glam Racket and Thought Decay, Have A Good Laugh features hardcore punk bands from all around the world playing shows at venues across the city: Black Lab,

at venues across the city: Black Lab, 333, Redgate, Astoria, and Franklin Studios. Bands include Konform, Massgrave, Weed, Total Abuse, Disorder, Ahna, Screaming Dead, and many more.

More information: thoughtdecay. com/have-good-laugh-fest-2016

Covenant Festival – June 16-18 Hindenburg Vancouver, BC Genre(s): Black Metal, Neofolk/

A three-day gathering of Death's music, Vancouver's Covenant Festival is now in its second year. This summer's lineup sees a blend of local, Canadian, and international acts; Auroch, Dire Omen, Bell Witch, Funeral Throne, Wolvhammer, Weregoat, Taake, Temple of Abandonment and many more.

More information: facebook.com/

Levitation – June 16-19 Various Venues Vancouver, BC Genre(s): Experimental, psychedelic, shoegaze, punk

A city-wide celebration based on the model of Austin Psych Fest, Levitation Vancouver is a multimedia trip with plenty to offer on any given night. Heavier highlights include Sumac, White Lung, Russian Circles, Dead Meadow, Black Mastiff and Waingro. Check out our Festival Spotlights for a more detailed writeup on Levitation Vancouver. More information: http://levitation-

Armstrong Metal Fest – July 15-16 The Hassen Arena Armstrong, BC Genre(s): Metal

Situated in sunny Armstrong, AMF is a Western Canadian metal festival with outdoor camping, merch vendors, a marketplace, and fun extracurricular activities like the Beer Helmet Competition, the 100-Man Shotgun, and Thrash Wrestling. This year's lineup includes Beyond Creation, Rivers Of Nihil, The Zenith Passage, Archspire, Black Wizard,

Nylithia, Dayglo Abortions, West of Hell, Unleash The Archers, Xul and many more. Check out our Festival Spotlights section for a more detailed writeup on Armstrong Metalfest.

More information: armstrongmetalfest.ca/bands/

Metallion – Aug 12-13 Brookside Resort Vanderhoof, BC Genre(s): Metal. Rock

Hosted by the band Deveined, Metallion takes place at a resort between Vanderhoof and Prince George, with free-for-all camping spread over the 100 acres surrounding. This year's lineup features West of Hell, Cocaine Moustache, Order of Chaos, Xul, Tyrants Blood, Iron Kingdom, Hellchamber, Zuckuss and more quality Canadian metal acts.

More information: facebook.com/events/1415756375332177/

Burger Fest 2016 – Aug 13 The Waldorf Vancouver, BC

Genre(s): Metal, Punk, Rock

An all-day affair of burgers, beers, and many bands, local favourite Burger Fest is now in its sixth year. Highlights include beef and vegetarian burgers provided by Vera's Burger Shack, a burger-eating contest, and of course, a blended local and international lineup coheadlined by Lord Dying and Wild Throne, with support from Anciients, Griever, Waingro, Astrakhan, Dead Ouiet, Brass. Dead Ranch, and plenty

More information: facebook.com/events/1138801729486249

---ALBERTA---

Sled Island – June 22-26 Various Venues Calgary, AB Genre(s): Rock, Metal, Pop, Punk, Electronic

Sled Island is a five-day, multidisciplinary arts festival that sees 250+ bands, comedians, filmmakers and artists perform in more than 35 venues around the city. There is always something to do or see, and most of the heavier bills are very well-matched. This year's heavy highlights include Anion, Astrakhan, Bell Witch, Crosss, Chron Goblin, Dead Cross, Numenorean, Wilt, The Weir and Valient Thorr.

More information: www.sledisland.com/

Loud As Hell – July 29-Aug1 Dinosaur Downs Stampede

Grounds Drumheller, AB Genre(s): Metal

This all-ages, weekend-long festival includes a host of excellent Western Canadian metal acts, as well as outdoor camping, guitar and drum clinics, vendors, freakshows, food trucks and more. Headlining acts include Into Eternity, Unleash The Archers, Archspire, Ninjaspy, Titan's Eve, and Disciples of Power.

More information: http://www.loudashell.com/

Calgary Metalfest – Sept 14-17 Various Venues Calgary, AB Genre(s): Metal

Big Nate Productions and Hubb Music present Calgary Metalfest, a multi-day, multi-venue festival that sees Annihilator, Exciter, Sacrifice, and Razor sharing one historic Canadian bill. The rest of the lineup will be announced soon. Check out our Festival Spotlights section for a more detailed writeup on Calgary Metalfest.

More information: http://calgarymetalfest.com/

--QUEBEC---

Grimposium – Doomed To Death

- August 5 Katacombes Montreal, QC Genre(s): Metal

Presented by Grimposium, Doomed To Death features Misery Index, Vastum, Vengeful, and Cardinal Wyrm. Also includes a free panel with Repulsion, and a death metal vocal workshop by Marie-Hélène Landry from Obsolete Mankind and Sébastien Croteau from Necrotic Mutation at 4pm.

More information: http://grimposium.com/

Heavy Montreal – Aug 6-7 Plaine des Jeux Montreal, QC Genre(s): Metal, Rock

Headlined by too many big names to list here, Heavy Montreal is one of the largest Canadian metal festivals. This year will see the stage graced by the likes of Suffocation, The Dillinger Escape Plan, Animals As Leaders, Fear Factory, Carcass, Blind Guardian, Black Label Society, Mastodon, Volbeat, Five Finger Death Punch, Disturbed and many, many more.

More information: http://www. heavymontreal.com/





Majora

Interview by Michael F. Carnage

Majora is a new metal band that's just started up in Victoria and has just a few shows under their belt. Dustin, Alex, Tony, and Max came together after being in other bands and starting writing classic heavy metal songs. One of their first shows was a performance at the Wacken Metal Battle, and it looks like they've got a lot more coming up. I got a bunch of guestions together, and the whole band sent bassist Tony Woollven with the

Absolute Underground: What first brought you guys together as a band?

Tony Woollven: We were the remnants of a previous band and now we didn't have a singer. Dustin was a good friend who wanted to hear us play so badly he said, "Fuck it, I'll come sing." Then the departure of a previous guitarist fired him up to jump into that role as well, and now we are the crushing force you see before you. Also, Smash

AU: How long did it take to get your first show?

TW: About four months. Though having been in the scene previously, it wasn't so much an issue of getting a gig. It was up to us feeling that we were ready to unleash the beast upon the world.

AU: What's been your biggest fuckup at a

TW: We've only played three shows as of yet, and luckily there haven't been any major fuckups! Though, at the Wacken Battle finals, Max's kick pedals decided to explode midway through a song. Luckily, he's a crafty SOB and got it going again during the extended intro of the next song.

AU: How excited were you all to open for Stryker and Spellcaster?

TW: We were stoked! Those guys rip! We're always stoked to play a show. There are so many wicked bands out nowadays that it's hard not to get

AU: What do you have coming up for the rest of the year?

TW: As of right now we have about two thirds of an album written. We're always tossing around ideas, but I'd say we're going to write another three or four songs so we can go into the studio and record a proper full-length debut album. We've got a few half-finished songs and some other song ideas kicking around, the majority of the work is done. We're also talking of doing our own tour in the near future.

AU: What's the local band you most want to

play a show with?

TW: Reaver!

career?

AU: Would you guys move to a different city to advance your

TW: If the correct opportunity arose we wouldn't be opposed to it, at all. Though it would be pretty hard to leave the wicked little scene we've got here in Victoria.

$\hbox{AU: What's your songwriting philosophy, and}\\$ can you ever see it changing?

TW: All of our biggest influences and favourite bands are bands that treat every song on an album as important as the next. There is no filler. We try to treat every song like it's going to be the best song on the album. The writing process takes some extra time because of this, but the end result is always something we can be proud of. We also try to incorporate many different elements within the heavy metal gauge, while still remaining cohesive. We don't want to be a

one-trick pony, and it shows in our setlist. That's one of the things the Wacken judges really liked about us. I hope neither of these qualities ever change for us

AU: What are your essentials for a good road trip?

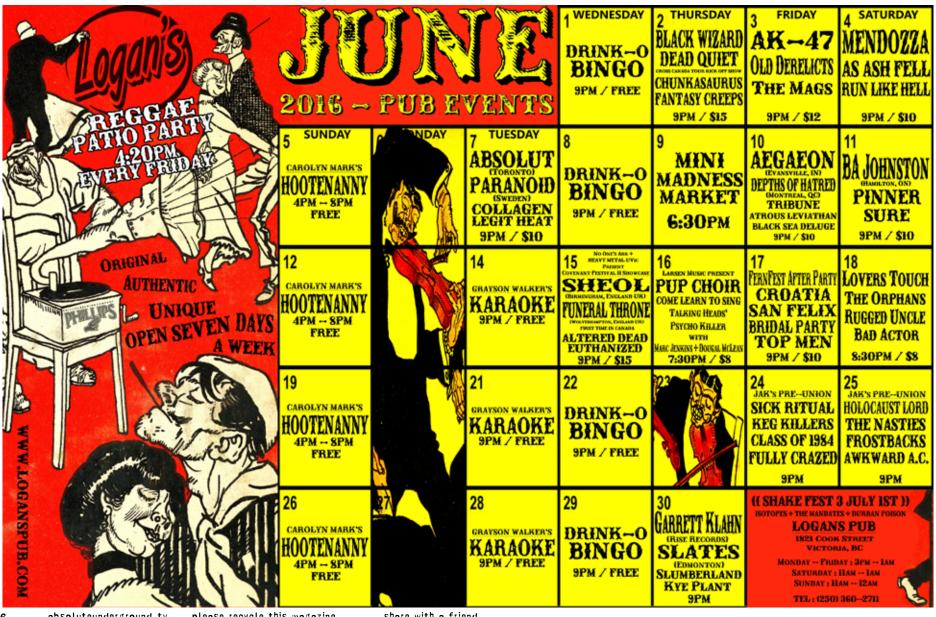
TW: Yaniv, band Tinder, good music, beer, Dustin and Tony yelling, everybody yelling, a lot of yelling, and possibly a pug.

AU: This is your chance to self-promote, preach, or let loose with whatever is on your mind:

TW: Check us out on Facebook, YouTube, Soundcloud, Tinder, or in-person. Not necessarily in that order. Keep it heavy. Don't fuck it up. Also, Smash Bros.

facebook.com/majoraofficial soundcloud.com/majoraofficial





Mortality Rate: The Road To Rain Fest

Interview by David Goertzen

The Pacific Northwest has granted me the ability to make lifelong friendships through the outlet of hardcore music and the culture that falls within those boundaries. The passion I have seen, from band members to fans, from the traveling fanatics to the odd showgoers,

MORTALITY RATE

cannot be compared to any other genre I have ever stepped into. So when I heard that a friend of mine from Calgary was finally starting a project, I knew I had to be on the lookout for when they began to pick up steam and get the ball rolling. Mortality Rate comes straight from the 403, and consists of Jessica. Cody, Jake, Liam and Dylan. They released their eight-song effort, Sleep Deprivation, in April 2016 and, even prior to this release. were touring the northwest of Canada and dipping into the

western United States to introduce people to their fast, abrasive style of hardcore music. Their hard work over the past couple years has not gone unnoticed, and the organizers of Seattle's Rain Fest have the up-and-comers playing the last instalment of the famous festival. Sadly, this article will come out after the three-day festival is over, but regardless you need to check this band out. I had a chance to sit down with Jessica from Mortality Rate on the road to Rain Fest, when they stopped in to play the VEC in Victoria.

Absolute Underground: Whats up? How's everything been since the release of the album?

Jessica: Everything has been great since the album was released. We've had a lot of positive feedback and the release show was amazing.

AU: How has the scene in Calgary been since the start of Mortality Rate?

J: The Calgary scene has been picking up again

lately, both with people attending shows and with bands starting. People are nothing but supportive of Mortality Rate back home.

AU: I understand you guys are playing Rain Fest in the next couple days, you must be stoked! Who are you guys most stoked to see/play alongside?

J: We are still blown away that we have a chance to play Rain Fest. I personally can't believe that my band name is on the same poster has Blacklisted and Trapped Under Ice. I could list basically the entire fest lineup. We are just so excited to be part

AU: I see you recently pressed Sleep Deprivation on wax, where can the readers get their hands on a copy of this banger?

J: We haven't had time to put it up on our Bigcartel yet, but it will be for sale on there when we are home from tour in June. For now, it's available to download on Bandcamp.

AU: What does this record mean to you, and what inspires you to write?

J: Everything that I write is just my inability to cope with how I handle things. Stress levels, workloads, anxiety, depression. This band is 100% my outlet, and the anger behind the music that the boys [play] just helps me get everything out.

AU: Mortality Rate has done its fair share of touring over the last year, where would you say is your favourite place to play, and why?

J: We love playing shows in general. Anywhere that we have friends is super fun, but we love to play new cities. Doesn't matter where it is and doesn't matter who's there, we just like to play in new cities in front of new people.

AU: What gets you through the long drives? Any tour games or constant jams you are all getting down to lately?

J: We honestly sleep as much as we can, and just quote *Superbad* a lot. We have a really big collection of music and rarely listen to the same

thing twice in one day. We try to change it up all the time so nothing gets too boring. Also, "that's what she said" jokes.

AU: Do you have any plans for the summer after the Fest? Or are you just planning on laying low and writing new stuff?

J: We are hoping to make it back down to the States in the fall this year, so we don't have any plans for the summer. [We'll] just practice and plan another tour, and maybe record a couple new songs that we have.

AU: Any groups you want to shout out that have been a constant listen for you all?

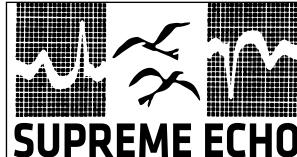
J: Year Of The Knife. Everyone should listen to that band. As well as Stepping Stone, Malfunction and Lost Souls.

AU: Any last words before you expire?

J: Last words... Thank you to anyone who reads this, listens to our music, comes to a show or picks up a record. All forms of support mean the world to us. Also, long live feminism! End sexism and misandry.

facebook.com/ mortalityratehardcore/ https://mortalityrate.bandcamp com/

PHOTO SOURCE: Mortality Rate



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Pyramid Theorem

Interview by Roger the Shrubber

Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to and what are you most infamous for?

Vic Dee: Hey there, you are speaking with Vic Dee and I'm the drummer in Pyramid Theorem. What am I infamous for? Hm...well, the guys sometimes call me Mad Dawg, 'cause I may have a bit of a short fuse sometimes... but that's only if things don't go according to plan!

AU: Tell us about Pyramid Theorem - can you describe your sound for readers that haven't heard you before?

VD: Pyramid Theorem was conceived in late 2006 when I had met Stephan, our keyboard player, through a mutual friend. We began to jam, just the two of us, for a few months, until we finally convinced Sam and Christian to come and make some noise with us. They were hesitant at first because they were in another band at the time, but once we got together and played for a while, it was evident that we had to be in a band together. Our sound is very unique. I think. We all love so many different artists, and I think that really shows in our music. We always say our music has no boundaries, and I really think that adds to what makes Pyramid Theorem... well,

Pyramid Theorem! If I had to describe our sound to someone, I would say we are Rush meets Van Halen, meets Pantera, meets Dream Theatre... in a nutshell!

AU: Tell us about your influences as a band, musical or otherwise. Anything we might find particularly surprising?

VD: First and foremost, we have a mutual love for the band Rush. I can tell you right now that if Rush wasn't around, I wouldn't be here answering these questions. They are at the top of the ladder when talking about our influences, but we also listen to so much other stuff that people may not be aware of when they hear our tunes. For myself, I listen to all sorts of different music that I draw inspiration from, it depends on my mood. One day I'll be feeling a little Zeppelin, and the next, I'll feel like listening to a little Beethoven. I really have no boundaries when it comes to music. If it

AU: Do your lyrics or music explore any particular topics or themes? I'm seeing a old Western style on both your Bandcamp

VD: Like our music, the lyrics are written mostly as a collaboration. We speak about what the song sounds like as we're in the writing stages and we kind of have these little seeds planted in our heads early on that blossom once it's time to put words to music. The songs that are on our Bandcamp are great examples of that. The music to "Drive" sounded like a tune that needed to be heard while driving fast, blaring tunes with the windows rolled down. "Outlaw for Good" had this really crunchy opening riff that, to us, sounded like an outlaw who was on the run for his entire life, and he knew no differently.

AU: You recently won the Ontario semi-finals of the Wacken Metal Battle Canada – tell us about the experience! How do you feel knowing that you'll go on to compete on a national level in

VD: The Wacken Metal Battle has been fantastic. It's really great to be a part of and there are a lot of solid bands that we've shared the stage with so far. We are super excited about the final in June. It'll be our first time back at The Opera House since 2012, and we are really looking forward to it. I just hope we will have the honour and privilege of waving that Canadian flag loud and proud in Germany in August, that

AU: What can attendees of the national final expect to see at your live show? What happens when Pyramid Theorem takes the stage?

would be a dream come true.

VD: Well, we take pride in our live show We are a live band, and our show has to reflect that. With that being said, it's pretty intense when we're onstage. There are a lot of notes to play during a Pyramid Theorem show, and it takes a lot of practice to play the way we want to play. We each set a high standard for ourselves as musicians, and when all that hard work and dedication pays off and we play solid, it feels good. We want people to have a good time and groove out with us while we do our thing. Lately, a lot of people have been coming up to us as we get offstage, they come hang out and tell us they really enjoyed the set and they are really digging what we're doing. It's really humbling and gratifying when strangers take the time to come over and chat with us, we must be doing something right!

AU: If you win, what will you do? Wacken Open Air is a far-flung dream for most bands - if you get the chance to play it, what aspect are you most stoked for?

VD: If the stars align, and we do end up getting to play at Wacken, it will be a ginormous steppingstone for a band like us. Hopefully it generates a buzz and things really start to take off. The thing that I would look forward to the most would be when the house lights go off and the crowd roars. That, as a musician, is the single greatest feeling I've ever experienced. We've played some pretty big shows in the past, and when you're in a larger venue as opposed to a bar and you get the nod to get on the stage and they hit the lights... that gets me going and gets me ready to play those drums like never before. What a feeling!

AU: What does the rest of the summer hold for Pyramid Theorem? Any tours or recording sessions planned?

VD: At the moment, we have no concrete plans for the summer. A lot of things are floating around, but nothing is set in stone yet... hopefully Wacken will be on the itinerary! We are actually in the middle of tracking for our new record. I

and as we speak, the guys are laying down some guitar solos. It's starting to take shape and we are

really happy with all of the tunes. The rest of May will be to finish tracking and mixing, and then off to mastering. If all goes to plan, we should be releasing it sometime in the summer.

AU: Which band member would survive



longest in a zombie apocalypse, and why?

VD: Definitely Christian, the bass player. What better weapon is there than a bass? Just ask Gene about his Axe bass, he know's what we're talking

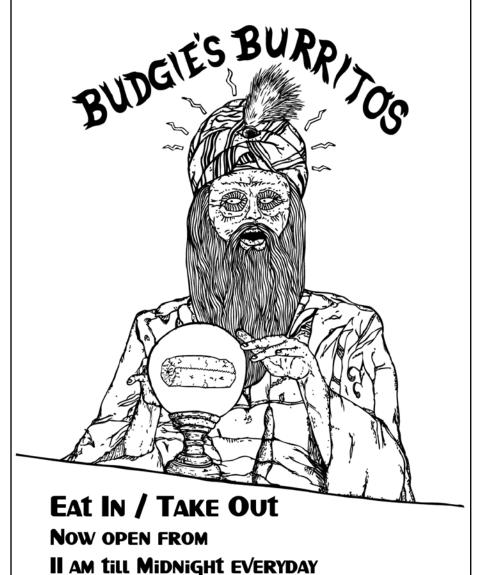
AU: What does the far future hold for your band? Any long-term goals?

VD: There are so many goals that we want to achieve as a band. We've been at it for almost ten years now, so we are all dedicated and on the same page, and we're not going anywhere. Good things take time, and we truly feel that we are on the right track in solidifying our dreams of doing what we love to do. The long-term goal would be to do this for a living and to know that all that practice, all that dedication and sacrifice has paid off and we get to keep doing what it is that we

AU: Any final words for readers?

 $VD: Fellow\ Canadians...\ Long\ live\ rock\ \&\ roll!$

facebook.com/pvramidtheorem/ pyramidtheorem.bandcamp.com/ PHOTO CREDIT: Josephine Baldassarra





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JUNE	LIVI	MUSIC VENUE	JULY
THUR 9	FRANKY FROG LIQUOR / JASON MOHLER / TYLER BURTON / CHJRS KREUGE / DEVIN PEDERSEN	DAYGLO ABORTIONS / CITIZEN RAGE / WMD / HAZZERD / CADAVOR DOG	FRI
FRI 10	REP YO' SELF RAP BATTLES THE COMEBACK BASH	SKYMIR / SHOTGUNNER DUEL CD RELEASE PARTY WITH MALICE / ALTARS OF GRIEF	SAT
SAT 11	OLD DERELICTS / CITIZEN RAGE / PERVCORE PAINT THE DAMAGE / OBSCENE BEING	BETWEEN NOW & THEN / FOR A LIFE UNBURDENED	SUN 3
SUN 12	MADE THEM LIONS / VIBRANCE / THE NORTH SOUND NIKKI VALENTINE & THE GYPSY RYDERS	NORIE / YE GOAT HERD GORS / DETHGOD	WED
MON 13	KUNG FU VAMPIRE / DIRTBAG DAN & GUESTS	PUTTIN ON THE FOIL / COCAINE MOUSTACHE 7S WILD / BLACKBIRD ELECTRIC	THU '
WED 15	AEGAEON / DEPTHS OF HATRED STATUE OF DEMUR / KREPITUS	SOUTHERN ALBERTA HARDCORE FESTIVAL	FRI 8
THUR 16	THE UNCULTURED / EMBERS OF EMPIRES / RED CAIN LES MISERABLE / AND GUESTS	SOUTHERN ALBERTA HARDCORE FESTIVAL	SAT S
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SAT 18	BINSKI PRESENTS	BLESSTHEFALL / LIKE MOTHS TO FLAMES GET SCARED / PICURESQUE	SAT 1
SUN 19	NEIL E. DEE'S DANAGER THRILL SHOW DIRRTY SHOW / SIDESHOW PUNX / LINDSAY ISTACE	ANNIHILATRIX PRESENTS 4 9 PM 9PM STATUZ PRESENTS MAY DAY	WED 2
THUR 23	FATAL PUSUIT / 3 FAT DADDIES / THESE COLOURS DONT RUN & GUESTS	7S WILD / HAZZERED / ACCOSTAL	SAT 2
FRI 24	CAVEAT / THE DEAD COLD DOUBLE CD RELEASE PARTY LORDOSIS / SKEPSIS	FRANKIE & JIMMY / THE RECONCEIVED NOTIONS	THUR 2
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3828 MAGHEOD TRAIL S CALGARY ALBERTA



We get up there and play. We've had a group of elderly people, 50 and over, jamming out to our show before, and they truly enjoyed it, which was mindblowing for

festivals as well as alongside a vibrant roster of bands that span the gamut of metal. Can you divulge some of your most memorable experiences?

WMD: It seems like each show we get asked to be a part of this year has been bigger and better. Some of our most memorable experiences have been playing with bands who were a part of the

final show on our last tour was in Vernon, where

we met up with Arkenfire, Striker, Spellcaster and Re-animator, and we played a kick-ass show. By the end of the night, we were hanging out in the hotel room attached to the venue, talking about future plans with the bands together. They are big fans of W.M.D. and wanted to do a bunch of gigs in the future. We were all beyond stoked to have such support from a band we've never met before, and a band who has accomplished so much more than us. Those guys fucking rule!

AU: A great amount of your overall appeal and popularity seems to come from your slapstick antics. Is this something you guys actively seek to maintain in your stage presence or is it more of just a natural extension of your personalities and camaraderie?

WMD: We know when to be serious and we know when it's time to have fun. All four of us are a bunch of goofy motherfuckers so of course thats going to come out while it's time to drink some beer and have fun up on stage. It comes out naturally for us. We are constantly thinking of new ways to change up our show, whether it be with a stage prop, or certain interactions between band members or the crowd.

AU: What are you guys currently working on and what's in store for summer 2016?

WMD: This summer we plan to focus most of our efforts on recording our first record, and to have it released near the end of the summer. We do have a few shows lined up in Edmonton and Calgary, and a few festival dates like Armstrong Metal Festival and Loud as Hell. We have some pretty big goals on our plate that will take a massive amount of dedication and investment to achieve, so we plan to only play a few shows this summer—but put our heads down and focus.

www.wmdofficial.com

W.M.D.

Interview by Lacey Paige

AU: For guys in your early 20s, your passion for old-school crossover thrash and your dedication to breathing new life into the genre is highly commendable. What do you find most appealing about this genre, especially coming from a younger generation?

WMD: All four of us are straight-up guys with a serious drive to accomplish our goals. The music we play is a reflection of our attitude and energy towards life. When we all come together, we've got something to prove. The fact that we're pissed off about what's going on around us—within society, and how we are constantly destroying our planet—is what fuels our fire. I feel that this genre has always had an honest energy to it aggressive, fast, and heavy. It comes out that way naturally for us. And we like to party!

AU: How do you feel about holding the title of youngest local band to actively be keeping thrash alive, and pulling it off with a genuine sense of sincerity?

WMD: For us, it gives us a sense of responsibility. We want to set the bar higher every time we play, because we know how new we are to the scene—although sometimes we forget that the majority of our supporters are older, but they can really tell. We don't try to be something we're not. us. People can tell when music is played from the heart.

AU: Your musical prowess as a young crossover thrash band pretty well goes unparalleled in the Alberta metal scene. To what do you owe vour success and persistent efforts to progress as musicians?

WMD: We've had some amazing opportunities over the last year and it has really driven us to step up our

game, work hard and tour. All four of us share a consistent vision and goal, and we all know what it takes to achieve those goals.

AU: Thus far in your career, you've played at some fairly prominent Western Canadian whole movement in the 80s—the guys we look up to—but most recently, we did a few shows throughout British Columbia with the band Reanimator. We instantly connected on a level we have vet to connect with any other band. Our





Interview by Lacey Paige

Absolute Underground: How did you guys come together to form Sleeping in Traffic?

Sleeping in Traffic: Greg and Ryan were previously together in Desecrate The Gods. After disbanding, they went to new, separate bands but would continue to jam and write together. After Greg left Illusive Man (now Tylor Dory Trio) they decided to take their writing project a step further. They tried out one other drummer before contacting the old drummer from a band called Panda Jerk. Andrew tried out and joined. Cory was the only respondent to a Facebook post by Ryan seeking a vocalist, and a single night of jamming determined that this was to be the lineup. It was oddly serendipitous, as anyone who has tried to start a band knows what a nightmare it can be.

AU: How did each member's particular musical

influences and personal idiosyncrasies play a role in forming the aural aesthetic of the band?

SIT: All the members have a history of playing metal, but we all possess a myriad of tastes in music. Andrew, Greg, and Ryan all share an interest in pop-punk, and Greg is currently active in a pop-punk group called Dead Oaks. This interest also spans into punk sub-genres such as ska, which certainly find its way into our music. Ryan works with a number of members of the local hip-hop scene in the production of their records, while both Cory

and Greg have experimented with composing electronic music Cory spent years poring through genres after escaping a metalonly mentality, and listens to everything from jazz to country, swing to electro,

Celtic to Flamenco, and delights in working with a band that allows him to incorporate the wild ideas he has picked up in this exploration.

AU: What inspired you to veer away from adhering to the tropes of traditional subgenres of metal while using specific elements of each one and melding them together with your own unique flavour of progressive metal?

SIT: Mostly just being sick of playing the same old stuff. Everyone in the band wants to explore new things, break new boundaries, and write whatever comes to mind, whether influenced or under-the-influence. The band came together over the concept of writing music without placing rules on which direction it could go, and we willingly explore unusual directions that the other members present. But it all blends together with the metal styles we were used to playing in.

AU: If you could portray the entity of Sleeping in Traffic's sound through a collection of images, colours, and abstract concepts, what would it look like?

SIT: This is the most amazing question I have ever been asked. I will describe a painting to you: It is made up of staggering array of vibrant colours, with dark, jagged lines sifting their way through the garish chaos. The colours appear to shift and change constantly, becoming darker or lighter at times, moving inwards and outwards in space and position. Familiar shapes and images seem to bubble up occasionally out of the moving mosaic, but disappear back into its midst as fast as you can recognize them. Upon close inspection, the entire painting seems to vibrate.

AU: Sleeping in Traffic has played at several of Alberta's bigger music festivals as well as a diverse roster of shows with bands that span the gamut of local metal and alternative music. Do you ever feel like the odd man out in situations where you're playing with primarily more traditional-sounding metal outfits?

SIT: We are always the odd man out. It comes with the territory, and it doesn't really bother us. We often find it interesting the different reactions we get from the traditional metal fans who came out to see the other acts, both positive and negative. The negative reactions are usually hilarious (I had one guy do a clean 180 and walk out when he heard my scat solo. He was overheard grumbling about having "Not enough to drink"), while the positive reactions are very inspiring and reaffirming

AU: How do you use those experiences to refine the style and sound of Sleeping in Traffic?

SIT: These experiences leave us without the feeling of intense attachment to the metal scene

While we are happy to be a part of it, and to be welcome in it, we are more than willing to try leaning further into other genres, widening the scope of our sound and the range of our fan base.

AU: How do you guys go about writing new material? Is it a wholly collaborative process where all ideas are formed in a group setting, or do you guys write your own parts as individuals and then bring them together at jam sessions?

SIT: The lyrics on the new album were written in close collaboration with the very people that it addresses, and there were many things we learned in this process. One of the core concepts of the album is that within activism, your impact is more important than your intent.

AU: What are you guys currently working on, and what does the future hold for Sleeping in

SIT: The band is currently in the midst of recording a new album, and by the time this interview is published, we may already have a release date set. It will be a concept album about social justice, broadly discussing race, sexuality, gender, ability, etc. though the lens of feminism. Sonically, it is a bit of an homage to 70s prog rock, incorporating organs, electric piano, analog synths and saxophones, but with a more modernized approach, and with a vastly-evolving array of songs. The most important thing I can say about the future of Sleeping In Traffic is this: don't expect to hear the same thing twice! After this album, we have plans to start working on a pair of EPs, which will explore the two extreme ends of dynamics and intensity.

sleepingintraffic.com facebook.com/SleepingInTraffic/ PHOTO CREDIT: Graham Charles



BOIDS

Interview by Roger the Shrubber

Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to, and what are you most infamous for?

Boids: You are speaking with BOIDS, and we are most infamous for being BOIDS.

AU: Give us a little background about your band. What's your sound like, do you have a preferred genre description?

B: Our favourite thing to do is drive all day, and then explode for forty minutes a night. We are a sweaty mess of pop punk and old, thrashy HC: Hard-Pop Core-Punk!

AU: What influences you, musically, thematically or lyrically?

B: You are what you eat.

AU: You released a new album last year, tell us about it? What can we expect to hear when we pick it up?

B: Superbafrango is the destroyer of proud things. We threw everything that pissed us off against a wall, and what bounced back were 13 songs. We then threw those songs into a garbage can, set up a microphone, poured Tim Hortons over it, and that was it. It's 28 minutes of BOIDS, 'nuff said.

AU: What about the video you've put out for "Bless This Mess"? Any tales from the set? Where/when did you film it? What's it all about?

B: "Bless this Mess" is a song about the freeky [sic] thing we do, and the freeky people we do it with We wanted to make a shitty B-Movie, and we did so in a clandestine Montreal basement. Using only fishing wire, dogs and Brazilian moonshine, we fight government monsters, wildlife, UFOs, and Canadiana

AU: We're writing to you from the West Coast... What's the Montreal scene like these days?

B: It's over-saturated with good bands and good people. It's like a musical gumbo.

AU: You're currently on tour with the Real McKenzies... how's it been so far? Anything crazy happen yet? Did you or did you not get matching tattoos?

B: Nothing we can talk about without the Real McKenzies getting mad at us. This is our third tour across the land with them. They're like family to us, nothing but hot knives and pillow fights with those lads... or hot pillows and knife fights, depending on the night. We most certainly did get matching tattoos. Duh!

AU: Any plans to head over to our side of the country? Have you played BC before?

B: We've already put 45000km on our van (Dark



Ark) this year alone, so you'd best believe we've dragged our poor asses down Highway One more

than once! Twice a year, you can find us painting daisies on the balls of dirty hippies on Vancouver Island.

AU: What the heck is Pouzza Fest all about?

B: It's about getting a bunch of great bands and great people together in downtown Montreal, for a weekend you'll never remember. Y'all are invited.

AU: Any plans for a new release this year? What

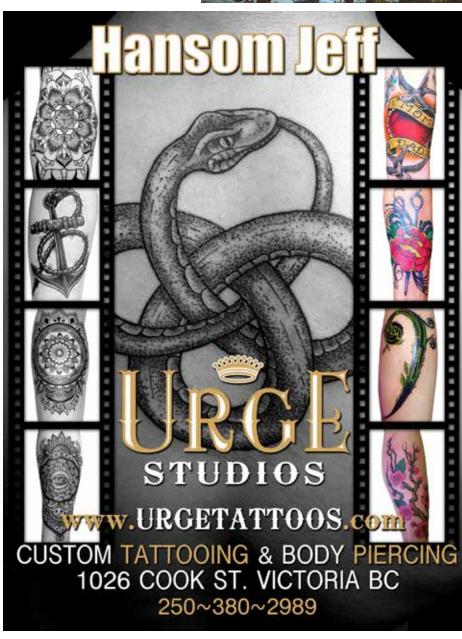
B: Stay tuned for the Drug Bag EP!

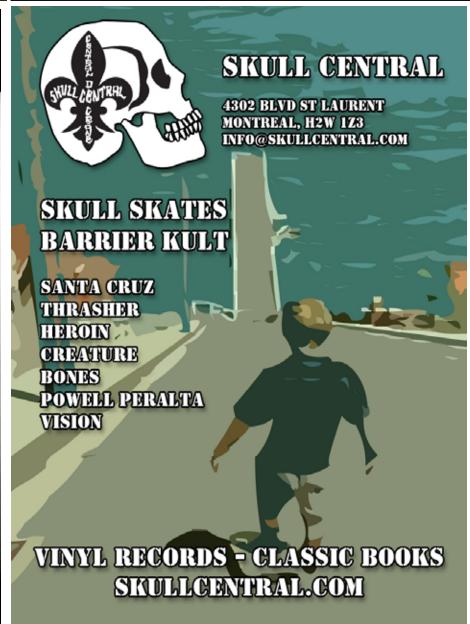
AU: Any final words for our readers?

B: Get off yer ass and get wild! Go fuck a pizza, and save a slice for us!

https://www.facebook.com/boidsmtl/









Ian Olsen

Interview by Teagan Taylor

lan Olsen is a tattooist and painter, currently tattooing out of Empire Tattoo in Victoria, BC.

Absolute Underground: What's the best part of where you are tattooing now?

lan Olsen: I've got creative freedom. There's no feeling guilty about turning clients down because I don't want to do the piece they're asking for. It's more about promoting me [doing] what I want to do, so that I can get better at what it, which is how it should be done.

AU: What made you want to tattoo?

IO: Getting tattooed, pretty much.

AU: What was your first tattoo?

IO: Some piece of shit design that I did in high school... I was young, just wanted to get something done. At that point I thought you had to come up with your own designs for tattoos, you know, instead of working with an

artist; I thought they just tattooed images. But then I got a couple of custom tattoos done and saw that it could be different.

AU: What are your preferred styles?



IO: I guess I would call it black and grey illustrative realism. I use a lot of photo referencing for light sourcing, shadowing and stuff like that. And then I add my drawing into the photo. I've been really getting into portraits lately. They're the most challenging, and cause the most anxiety, but it's definitely the most rewarding once they're done. With a lot of the bio stuff that I like to do, if you fudge something up you can

sort of just turn it into something new, and that's kind of how it works with that style. It kind of grows... The organic stuff has life to it, almost like it's growing on your body. That's what I love about it: it looks like it's a part of you, instead of something put on you.

AU: If there was one tattoo you could do, what would it be?

IO: Actually, probably the one that I have coming up: I'm going to be doing a portrait with bio-organic.

Maynard James Keenan with growths on his face, some weird sinewy stringy bits and a just gross dark edge to him.

AU: What's your favourite tattoo that you've given?

IO: That's a thinker... It's hard to choose. That's like asking what your favorite song is, you know? You think of one and then you're like, oh but there's this one... So many different learning experiences and reasons you get attached to it. I always try and make every tattoo I'm about to do my favourite tattoo.

AU: What other mediums do you work in?

IO: Oil paint, and I just got into some digital painting. With the new iPads and the pressure sensitivity pencils, you can build a lot more similarly to how I would work when I paint. Using oils I start really washed out and sort of push things around and gradually get darker and darker, and it kind of builds itself up on the canvas.

AU: What music do you to listen to when you're tattooing?

IO: It always depends on what kind of mood I'm in. A lot of the time I'll throw a bunch of things on and just wait for something that's a bit more motivating than others... mainly progressive death metal.

AU: Any artists who've influenced your style?

IO: Definitely. My sleeve is being done by Jesse Levitt out of Denver, Colorado. He has such a

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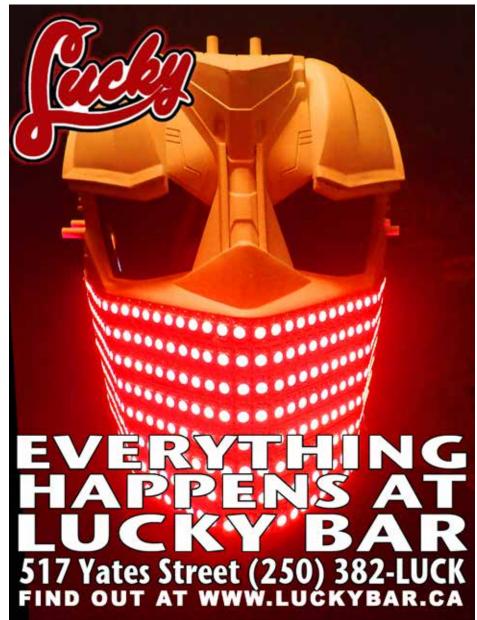
unique style to his bio tattoos; as soon as I saw his work I was like, "Oh fuck, that's what I've been trying to do." He has a very simplistic way of breaking things down, because bio organic/mechanic stuff can be very complex. Watching his process of how he does it, I learned a lot about free-handing tattoos; how to lay out the concept and just let your hand and mind go nuts and see what happens along the way.

AU: Have you done any conventions?

IO: I've been to Saskatoon twice, just got back from that one not too long ago. And I'm doing St. John's, NL in July.

empiretattoo.ca

instagram.com/ianolsen/







Beyond Creation

Interview by Adam VanThiel

Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to and what are you most infamous for?

Beyond Creation: Hi Adam, thank you very much for having us. You're talking to Simon, Kevir Philippe, and Hugo of Beyond Creation! Luckily. none of us are infamous for anything!

AU: You have a couple big summer tours coming up... Are you guys excited to be out on the road soon?

BC: Absolutely! We're always looking forward to it, especially with Psycroptic, Rivers of Nihil and The Zenith Passage. It's always a blast to share the stage with bands we listen to on a regular basis. We're stoked for our first time in Florida, but Armstrong Metalfest is definitely the cherry on the cake for this tour, since everyone in Canada told us good things about it!

AU: Do you have a favourite Canadian city to play when you're touring?

BC: We all know Montreal is recognized as one of the best cities for metal, and as Montrealers, we always have an incredible time playing in front of all of our brothers. Additionally, the time we spend in BC while touring will never be enough! We really enjoy the view of the mountains and the distinctive vibe going on there.

AU: What is the one thing you can't live without when you go on tour?

BC: If we had to pick one thing, it would be our iPads! We use them for multiple tasks like staying in touch with our families, keeping our social medias active, writing songs and practicing our instruments with amp simulator apps, controlling our in-ear monitor mixes and much more!

AU: Beyond Creation is set to play the Armstrong Metal Festival this year, have you been before? What can audiences expect to see at your live performance?

BC: It's gonna the first time for each of us, and we're really excited for both playing and watching the show! People can expect our craziest performance yet, lots of sweeps, taps, slaps, slides, chugs, solos, hair and a total of 22 strings (without a single headstock).

AU: What other bands are you most stoked to see at AMF?

BC: In addition to Rivers of Nihil and the Zenith Passage, we're looking forward to seeing our friends in Archspire again!

AU: Has the band been working on any new material? When we expect to hear it?

BC: Yes, we are currently working on new material and it's a really fun process. When creating new music, we try to push further the elements that really make us feel alive. It may take the form of different feels, ambiances or techniques that [we've] never explored or recorded. We should be playing new material and entering the studio in 2017.

AU: What do you take inspiration from when writing music? How are you able to keep your musical ideas fresh?

BC: We think the best way to improve your writing skills is to listen to multiple genres of music and analyze what you like in their differences. Part of being a musician is being able to speak through your music, so playing whatever makes you feel good and understanding the influences of a genre over another is a very good key to progress.

AU: Do you feel there is an over-saturation of death metal bands on the east coast right

now? I have heard the opinions of a few bands from Quebec, so I'm curious what you think.

BC: It's hard to say. There cannot be an over saturation when you try to do something with your heart that is new and refreshing. Quebec has quite a few incredibly talented bands and we're always curious about what they're bringing to the table

AU: Do you feel that this type of music is on the rise, and if so, why?

BC: Yes. Finally, the days of stereotypes in metal are slowly coming to an end. For a long time, metal bands were known to play the very same style for all of their careers and if that's what you're looking for in an artist, there still are plenty that preserve total musical integrity from one album to the next. For us, we feel like our music needs to vary in the same way that music itself evolves. In 20 years, we'll surely have a blast performing our songs from *The Aura* but we'll also have a lot of fun playing our newest stuff because we create music that makes us feel good and on point with what we are living in the moment.

AU: Quebec has a very high concentration of musicians who support themselves entirely from their art. Does the same hold true for the metal scene there, or do you guys all have day jobs as well? We pretty much all have day jobs over here on the west coast...

BC: Indeed, we have a great amount of adepts in all of the art forms, but when it comes to living off music, there are definitely choices to make. It all depends on the way you live and how far you're ready to go in this direction. The hardest part is to find ways to be self-sufficient, working on what you love and making your own schedule which allows you to go on tour a few times a year. Our most important job is taking good care of the business and reaching our goals and expectations by making the best choices possible while staying focused on the music. In addition, Simon does professional photography, Hugo does some recording and mixing as well as some session work, Kevin has a part-time job, and Phil still has a full-time job.

AU: What does the future hold for Beyond Creation? Any particular long term goals?

BC: It's hard to speak about that precisely because every band have different paths and there are always new things to do that you wouldn't think of. Of course we have a lot of time in front of us and we expect a lot to happen considering all the places we could play, all the new music we could create and all the experiences we could live!

Some long term goals we have are to keep on doing it with our hearts in a way [that we] end up where we truly want to be. Also, focusing on the present and making the most out of it, so every second flourishes into a positive experience.

AU: What should we know about you that we don't already? Any final words for our readers?

BC: Everyone is free to follow us on our band and personal pages! Finally, a huge thanks to everyone that supports the band! When you buy our stuff, come to our shows or spread the word to your friends, you massively help us to thrive as musicians and keep the band as healthy and productive as possible, thank you so much! We hope to see many of you this summer! Thank you for having us!

beyondcreationofficial.com facebook.com/BeyondCreationOfficial





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Punk Rock Bowling 2016 Interviews

By Ira Hunter

THE DWARVES

 $Interview\ with\ guitarist\ HeWhoCannot be Named$

Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to? What's your

H: Hewhocannotbenamed!

AU: Well we're off to a bad start for this interview! Where are we, what's happening?

H: We are at Punk Rock Bowling, it's

AU: And today you did a lounge show, you and Blag Dahlia...

H: Yeah well it's Blag's comedy, his solo songs and jokes, most of those songs have been around for years.. probably no one else has really heard them, but I have. So that was funny, and then we did some Dwarves acoustic stuff.

AU: So Vegas and The Dwarves goes well together..

H: Yeah kind of a lounge thing, why not? There are songs you can kinda sing along, they have melodies, I think a good song is a song that you can play on an acoustic guitar.

AU: I can just imagine some old lady walking through the casino and hearing some of the Dwarves songs today...

H: Well little did I know... as I was leaving, a security guard walked up to me and he was like, "You know, thanks for the show, great show, but I have to tell you, there's a federal law prohibiting anyone wearing a mask in a casino." I was like, "Okay, well just escort me to the door then." So yeah apparently they saw what was going on and they realized... they were keeping track of the situation.

AU: I was just happy you wore pants.

H: Yeah you know, it's always a decision.

AU: It's a game-time decision...

H: Yeah I went for the pants

AU: And how would you describe your attire today on the festival main stage?

 $H\!:\!Well$, that's kind of like... it started as nudity, and then... my wife, I have to blame my wife, she doesn't like the nudity.

AU: No, she's into S&M...

H: Yeah, she's like, "You can't do nudity anymore." So I'm following the rules, so I wore a jockstrap.

AU: Is that how you met her?

H: When I met her I was naked, yeah...

AU: I remember at a show in Victoria, someone grabbed it and put it in their

H: Those are rumours, I dunno.

AU: You weren't married then... So the new Dwarves album, you were telling me about

> H: Yeah there's a new Dwarves album in the works, which I don't know too much about, I've got roughs, I haven't listened to them yet. But I know Josh Freese is playing drums, I know that all the guys do songs, Rex Everything, Fresh Prince of Darkness, Blag I'm sure has some. I did see even a Salt Peter song in there, and I got one, too. So Dwarves are writing a lot of stuff, and we'll see how it goes.

AU: What happened to Vadge Moore?

H: Vadge Moore, as far as I know, is living in New Orleans. I heard he was sober, I don't know, a rumour. The only time I ever really heard from him, he'd call me at like four in the morning and be like, "Man, I can't do it anymore! I gotta stop drinking." And he tells me about the shit he's doing and I'm like alright, ok.

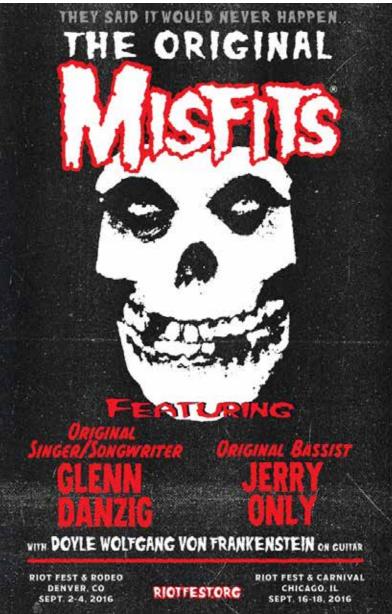
AU: What's the craziest thing you've seen in Vegas?

H: Well Whitey just threw up at the tent, minutes ago, that was pretty crazy.

AU: Final words for Canadian fans?

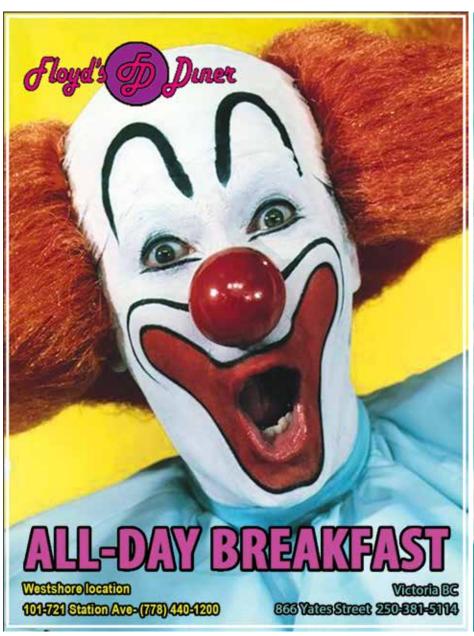
H: I love Canada! I was talking about a show in Victoria just today... we played there and ALL was in town, too. I was talking to Chris Sherry who did this shirt and who does all the ALL artwork. I don't know the name of it, but there was basically two clubs in town at that point, and no one was at our show, and we were like, what's going on... and ALL was at the other club. So we shut it down and went over to see them, and they were great. Excited to meet Bill Stevenson... that was cool. I like Victoria.

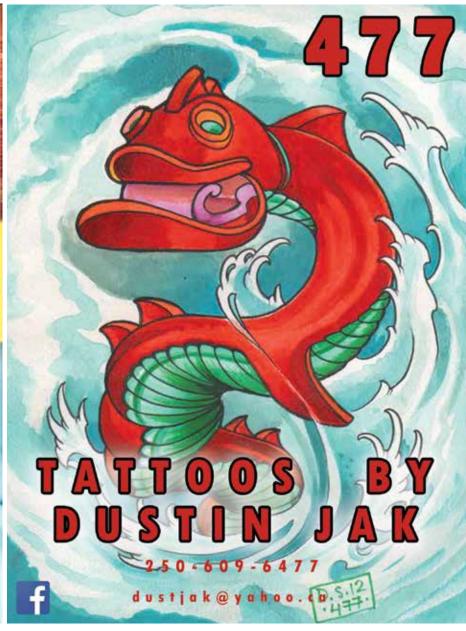
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Punk Rock Bowling 2016 Interviews

Bv Ira Hunter

STARVING WOLVES

AU: Where are we at, who are we talking to, and what's going on?

David: We are at Punk Rock Bowling in lovely Las Vegas, and you are with David and April from Starving Wolves, Ow owww (wolf howls)!

AU: What was the genesis of this new band?

D: We just get together, we had some stuff that we wanted to do outside of our other bands, April plays in Sniper 66, we just got together, I had some stuff in my brain and wanted to start a new project.

April: I'll do anything I can to extract the ideas out of Dave's brain.

AU: What is the difference between this band and the Krum Bums?

D: It's a different time, I've got different stuff going through my head, and I'm really, really stoked on this project. We're having a blast and we're all really proud to be playing together, so it's killer.

A: It's a different feeling, coming from an outsider's perspective of the Krum Bums, it's a totally different thing. There's a lot more melodic things going on, there are things that Dave is doing with his voice that he hasn't done before, and just the sum of our parts makes up a different band. People don't realize that it's not Krum Bums, it's a totally different thing now, because we have other members making up this thing and putting their own spin on it, so we all have a part in it and it all feels like a new thing.

D: All five of us singing, it's something I really wanted to do, because I'm way into backup vocals...

A: To the detriment of every sound guy that has ever lived... I need five microphones!

D: That is blowing everyone's minds...

A: We really do use five mics, and when we play, they re like, "Okay, you needed five mics, I understand now.

AU: What kind of debauchery has been happening in Vegas this weekend?

D: Dude, I will tell you what man, I have had so much coffee, Arizona iced teas, a couple diet Dr. Peppers, and a Diet Coke.

AU: Straight edge.

D: Straight edge hard core!

A: Yeah Dave's doing well... me on the other hand, maybe not so good. I keep myself in line, to do the thing.

AU: With some lines...

D: Heavy lines, you know.

A: We're talking about the lines in a song, right? David's singing lines about his strife, I get it.

AU: Will there be an album?

D: Yeah, we have a single coming out, a 7" on June 30th, and we do a song with Sturgeon and Brad from Leftover Crack called "Fuck The People," you can find that on YouTube and our Facebook. Our other single is called "We Are One."

A: We just released "Fuck The People" the other day so we can get people amped up for singing with us at this club show we're doing.

AU: Yeah tell us about the show tonight, you're on a big bill!

A: Tonight we're playing with Los Skarnales, D.I. and Leftover Crack.

D: Tonight's going to be a good show, a good lineup, it's gonna be solid, we're pretty stoked on

AU: Did you guys bowl today?

A: Aw man I wish, my Sniper 66 boys and I, we bowl a lot, but unfortunately, we did not bowl

AU: You dropped the balls.

D: I'm so ADD that's like a nightmare to me, to get stuck in one place and have to stay there. They say bowling and I'm like, nope. Not gonna happen. A: There's not enough time to do everything at Punk Rock Bowling.

AU: You have to choose one show and there's so many good ones.

A: Aw man, don't make me choose, other than the one I'm playing!

D: This is really one of the highlights of my life, every year. I come here, hang out, good friends.

AU: We first met at SXSW... D: That's right! And that was like ten years ago.

A: You guvs need a room?

D: We don't need a room, we'll do it right in the street man, it's Las Vegas!

AU: Where are you guys from?

D: We're based out of Austin.

AU: But I always see you in Vegas...

D: Yep. We're a travelling band, we've been pretty lucky dude, we did some shows in Denver, just played a couple nights ago with Angelic Upstarts, then Chron Gen, and Pistol Grip in LA. We're pretty new but we're flying out, we're driving out, we're trying to play as much as possible and send our

A: We're earning our keep as much as we can.

AU: We're from Canada and the Dayglo Abortions and DOA are playing.

D: Proud to be a Canadian! Pass me another beer,

AU: Pass me another Eskimo.

D: Watch me while I something her in her something-hole!

AU: Final words for Canadian fans in their ialoos?

D: Okay, eh, so come out and see Starving Wolves, eh. They're a good band, they're a bunch of hosers, but they're solid good people, good songs, eh just come out, eh?

A: I'm sorry all Canadians for the alienation that David just submitted you to. I love Canada, it's a great fuckin' place, it's nice and cold.

D: Deep in some poutine, eh?

A: Hey, poutine's the shit, alright? Nobody's gonna

www.reverbnation.com/starvingwolves.



98, and then came back in 2013, just to do reunion-type stuff and play the old songs again.

AU: So this first time you got back together you did *The Joke's* on You,and now ou're doing *Split* Image, is that right?

SR: No, we do a mix of both in the set. We reissued Split Image first, and Joke's On You is about to be reissued on outhern Lord.

AU: Would you

guys say you're skate thrash punk?

SR: Dan and I started skating when we were really young... we're in our 40s now. My dad

started skating in 1978 and took me along with him, so Dan and I met at Marina Skatepark when I was nine or ten, and then we met again in 1983 at a show at the Olympic Auditorium in downtow Los Angeles when I was 14. So we grew up in West LA, Venice.. skateboarding's been part of our history. We grew up listening to punk bands and then discovered the first Slayer record and the first Trouble record really early, like righ as they came out, and they were super influential on us. Then we also heard bands like Corrosion of Conformity and the first bands to mix punk and metal, and that was kind of influential for us, too.

AU: You guys are definitely crossover. What was your unique

style and message that set you apart from the other bands?

SR: We just tried to do our own thing and at the same time tried to be progressive of what other hardcore bands were doing in the 80s... there were other bands doing things that were interesting, like Bl'ast, COC, doing their own thing, and we just wanted to be in our own world, doing our own thing, to be considered a peer of those types of bands.

AU: How many albums altogether was there? Will there be a new one?

SR: We've been writing new material, but there's three released Excel albums. There's Split Image, Joke's On You, and Seeking Refuge.

AU: Are you going to check out any bowling?

SR: No actually, tomorrow we leave for Maryland Deathfest, and we play with Doom and Tragedy.

AU: Come to Canada!

SR: We'd love to... we've been to Canada like three or four times in the 80s and we'd love to go back everywhere that we haven't been back to. That was the whole point, there are younger generations listening to music so we felt like we'd want to go play the songs, perform to those kids.

AU: I can tell by some of the crowd response and people coming up to you after the show, it meant a lot to a lot of people.

SR: We're pretty grateful, when we play there will be up to four different generations of listeners...

AU: This guy brought his kid...

SR: It's pretty cool, it's like a unique situation, and we don't take it for granted. We feel like if we're able to play the songs, and there's a demand, we might as well. It's fun... we grew up doing it.

AU: What are you expecting to see in Vegas tonight, anything crazy?

SR: It's weirder than I remember, especially in this neighbourhood where we're staying, it's kind of



a trip... I don't really know what to expect, but it's weird.

AU: What is the overall message of Excel?

SR: We kind of always just stuck with personal politics, the band was always a vent for our frustrations, so we kinda kept it, in our message and stuff, we always kept it punk in that way.

AU: What was the joke that's on you?

SR: It's just kind of like, we were always kind of the underdog band, when we had that album, something happened where we got popular quicker than we ever could have imagined and started doing things we never thought we were going to be able to do. We'd always been kids that were picked on in high school, it's not too complicated.

AU: What about the "You're Fired" song, was that based in reality?

SR: Kind of, just the frustration in life, holding shitty jobs and just wanting to go skate. excel.southernlord.com

2016 Interviews By Ira Hunter **EXCEL** Interview with bassist Shaun Ross Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to today? Shaun Ross: This is Shaun Ross from Excel, from Los Angeles. AU: So you're a part of Punk Rock Bowling this year...

SR: This is our first Las Vegas show,

AU: Tell me the history of the

SR: Before I joined, there was a

band called Chaotic Noise in '83

and '84, and then they changed

the name and I joined in 1985, in

January. We were active from '85 to

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Punk Rock Bowling 2016: A Retrospective

By Glenn Mendoza

"What do you mean you're not going to see Ministry?'

"Naw, man I'm going to check out Voodoo Glow Skulls, I have never seen them before.

That's how my Punk Rock Bowling began, on Thursday, May 26th 2016.

I got to the Beauty Bar late, but just in time to see the the gangster ska band. They played all the hits from album Firme, and a couple other songs sprinkled in from other albums, with one in Spanish to boot. The brothers Casillas and company played a fun energeticshow.

Friday saw the whole crew head to Death by Stereo, H2O, and Good Riddance at the Freemont Country Club. The "Death for Life" chant started as the band was about to take stage. Efrem Schultz was rocking out with his standard windmill dance, while Dan Palmer was a notable absence. They played songs from their whole catalogue and a . Slayer cover, "Raining Blood."

Up next was H2O, but I missed them because I was preoccupied chatting up some girls from Vancouver. Last but not least, Good Riddance with a solid set as always, the boys were on point. Russ and company ran through their set with very little talk, cramming in as many songs as possib

Saturday Festival Day 1

The day started at noon with Pears at the Beauty Bar, with a strong showing as always. The place was packed, the lure of free tacos also didn't hurt. After Pears, we headed to the festival grounds, and got there just as JFA was ending their set. We used this time, wisely, to jockey to finally see Tacoma WA's Noilse. The first three songs were sketchy, but the sound improved from there once the bugs were worked out. When the the set was over, I wanted more.

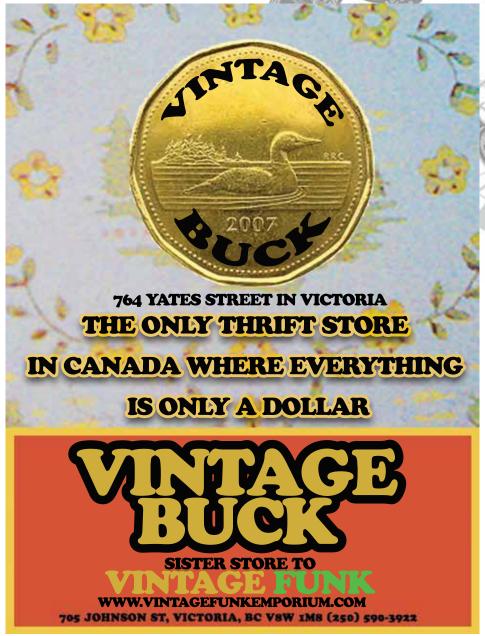
Next up was Youth Brigade, featuring frontman and festival co-founder, Shawn Stern. The mosh pit erupted into an old-school circle pit, with standard rules in full effect: when someone falls, you pick them up!

The Bronx were up next, and the crowd in front of the stage got bigger. For myself, this was

one of the highlights of Saturday night, on an already wicked opening day. By this time, the sound guy was finally firing on all cylinders. Matt Caughthran's witty banter and charm smoothly filled time in between the blistering songs the Bronx are known for. I don't understand why they are not in Canada more often... I fucking love the

Subhumans were next, I had to use my time wisely to grab food and have a seat and watch from afar. I didn't know too much of the set, as the only album I have ever owned was Time Flies

The Exploited took to the stage the crowd and pit $% \left(t\right) =\left(t\right) \left(t\right)$ grew again, with "Barny Army" shouts peppering in from the crowd. This was the highlight for my brother, Jimmy... Wattie knocking the mic to the





side of his head to give the speakers a crack. During the second last song, "Sex and Violence," Wattie invited the crowd to sing with him on stage. To get rid of the crowd after, he bribed the people on stage to... "get the fuck off so we can play one more song."

to... "get the fuck off so we can play one more song."
Finally, Flag's first show in three years; Keith, Chuck, Bill, Dez, and Stephen from Descendents. Oh my fucking god! Goosebumps. Keith started on vocals, excusing himself for being a 61-year-old. Halfway through the set, Keith paused to acknowledge that many of the members on stage should have died, starting with Bill

and his Guinness Book of Records grapefruit-sized tumor from his head. Dez and his throat cancer, and his scare with diabetes. Then Dez took over on vocals, singing his songs from the first four

years. Flag's set ran late, with Dez belting out damage, and awkwardly ended.

Sunday Festival Day 2

The only pool party I attended was at the plaza, for no other reason than to see Noilse. It was nice to see that the sound problems from the day before were worked out, and the Plaza pool area was full to see them play. The highlight was them playing "Warrior Down,"

which was not played during their previous set. Next was nap time, which was why I missed Night Birds... I overnapped, shame on

I got to the festival grounds as Sainte Catherines played, with three fucking guitarists, yes, three. This set began the trend of playing full albums at the festival. They played 2006's *Dancing for Decadence*, with an abbreviated set, as they ran out of time.

Now it was time for the band that invented rock and roll, The Dwarves, to have its crack at playing an entire album: *Blood Guts & Pussy!* They were also

tasked with figuring out what to do with the other twenty minutes of their set. For a quick "who's who" of the guest vocalists: first up was Stacey Dee from Bad Cop Bad Cop, followed by Stza from Leftover Crack, closing with Eddie

Spaghetti from the Supersuckers, back from a battle with cancer. This was the first Dwarves show that I've seen with Nick Oliveri and HeWhoCannotBeNamed, as they don't go on the Canadian tours. Dillinger Four played, and I was

Dillinger Four played, and I was not too familiar with them. Next was Sweden's Millencolin,

Next was Sweden's Millencolin, a band that I was super excited to see since they made the bill. To quote my friend Wes, "There's something funny about all the crust punks in the pit moshing."

crust punks in the pit, moshing and singing all the words to 'Bullion." The showmanship the band displayed was nothing short of amazing. I wish they would tour Canada more, and by more I mean ever.

Buzzcocks were up next, and I caught the set from the side of the stage while seated. I was pleasantly surprised by how many songs they played that I knew.

Headliner time; Descendents took to the stage, consisting of 2/5 of Flag, with Bill Stevenson and Stephen Egerton, cranking out all the hits and skits as well. The set reminded me that they were Black Flag's little brother that could kick your ass and get away with it if they wanted to, but would



rather sing about girls. With the festival over, it was once again time to hit the club shows. Off to the Backstage Bar to see Red City Radio and Teenage Bottlerocket. Red City Radio, what can I say? I dare you not to sing along if you know the words. It was a great set; everyone in the front knew the words. Teenage Bottlerocket came on to ramp things up a bit, and they did; the crowd got a bit feistier, a small pit broke out, and some headbanging!

On a side note, my brother Jimmy reluctantly joined us for this club

show, as his show, which was not part of PRB, was at the Hogg and Heifers. It was a charity show with The Bunny Gang, featuring Denis from Flogging Molly and Authority Zero, but it was cut short for him when a group of neo-fascists

skins showed up. "As soon as they got in, one guy took off his shirt to proudly display his swastika tattoo, then a bystander came up to me and told me boneheads were in the house and it was good idea to leave." Nazi punks, fuck off!

Monday Festival Day 3

Hung out at the pool at the Nugget early in the day to make us forget that we were in the desert in the fucking summer. Then everyone in the pool was cleared out as a possible suicidal jumper was spotted near the pool. It turns

out he wasn't a jumper, but just had a Suicidal flip hat on.

Finally, it was festival time once again. The first set I caught on day three was Off With Their Heads. Singer Ryan Young had many great tongue-in-cheek comments about festival sponsor, Fireball Whiskey, to fill the air between songs. This all built up to a big finale with Joey Balls from Old Man Markley on guest guitar with Young dry-humping him during the song "Clear the Air."

Strung Out took the stage and played the whole *Suburban Teenage* Wasteland Blues album in its entirety.

Mission complete, as the crowd belted back every word to the oldies. By the way, that album is 20 years old (fuck).

I took a breather for Dag Nasty. Face to Face continued the trend of full album sets, as they selected their major label debut – the self

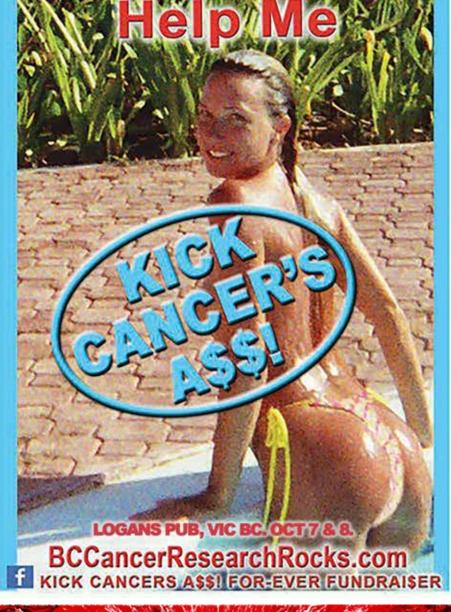
titled album. I forgot how fucking good that album was. I remember getting it from Columbia House (that was a thing)... again, that album is 20 years old (1996). They rounded the set out with a few new songs from their long-awaited return to Fat Wreck Cords, the album *Protection*.

We stuck around for a few of the closing out headliners, including Flogging Molly, before trying to score tickets to see Wyoming's

The Lillingtons - a show that was at the Beauty Bar, and under most peoples' radar. The Lillingtons are a band that never fucking plays, ever! And what a treat it was, they played for over an hour and the pit endured the whole set, smiles and high fives on everybody.

That was my punk rock summer camp. Another day of festival and club shows might have ruined me. To quote Danny Glover in *Lethal Weapon*, "I'm getting too old for this shit."

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Obscene Being

Interview by Stepan Soroka

Obscene Being is a band that books their own shows, makes their own merch, and blazes their own trail, leaving a mess of crushed cans, empty pizza boxes and ringing ears in their wake They will also be the first ones to clean up in the morning, even if it's because the show was in their own living room. But Obscene Being is more than a party band. Anyone who has had the pleasure to see them play will attest to their tight musicianship and energetic sets, captained by their face-contorting, voice-manipulating frontman, Jameson Trenholm. This summer, the boys are taking their unique brand of "stuffedcrust punk" on the road to play a slew of Canadian cities between Vancouver and Montreal. They are also about to release their sophomore EP, bringing their conscious good-times message to the masses. I sat down with Obscene Being in their recently refurbished tour van for a couple of beers, reefers, and a conversation. It was their first interview, and we all agreed it was a "high point" for the band.

Absolute Underground: Who are you and why

Jules: We are Obscene Being. I'm Jules, most importantly. We're here because Stepan is interviewing us, and he's a rad dude and works for Absolute Underground, writes some mean articles, and we're a pretty mean, aggressive punk

Jameson: We like playing punk music. These guys started jamming a long time ago. James from Flagpolers and Poor Form was like, "I know three dudes who are looking for a singer." So I went to their jam spot. I had never played in a band before.

Jules: He was a natural right away. As soon as we saw him, we thought he was perfect. Obscene as fuck

Dawson: He can't sing but, my god, can he act. Jules: He writes a lot of good songs. He's a poet.

AU: How would you describe your band to someone who has never heard your music?

Jameson: Post-modern pre-crust cheesecore. Stuffed-crust punk.

AU: Tell us a bit about your upcoming tour.

Jules: We're just gonna give'r. We're all really nervous

Dawson: We did the whole thing ourselves. We do everything.

Jameson: The main goal was Montreal. Once we had that one booked, we lined it all up.

Jules: We got contacts from some people. Spree Killers gave us a big list, which was a very nice thing to do. We're playing with New Tron Bomb in Nelson, with Old Derelicts in Calgary. Everyone helped us out.

Jameson: And that's how punk shows should be. We're playing Fattal in Montreal. It's a giant squat, an abandoned factory. There's a bar and a stage. They have an outdoor stage and an indoor one. It's a cool spot. I visited there last summer and went into one apartment and there was a campfire in the middle of the floor.

AU: What are you guys most looking forward to about tour and what are you most afraid of?

Jules: I know Dawson's really afraid of us hitting a moose.

Dawson: I'm afraid of Jameson driving. I'm afraid he's the kind of guy who would hit the brakes. Jameson: And you know what's funny? What's my favourite beer? Moosehead.

Kyle: We're stoked for all of the other bands and seeing the country.

AU: Why should people across Canada come to see Obscene Playing play?

Jameson: Because we're on a lewd crusade.

AU: Tell us about your upcoming EP.

Dawson: It's crunch time. We're a week past the deadline we set for ourselves. We recorded it at Rain City with Stu and Mark. It's gonna be five

AU: What are some of the lyrical themes you touch on in the EP?

Dawson: It's a bit of a concept album.

Kyle: It's not really a concept album.

Jules: The first song is called "Litterbug." It's about people who litter.

Jameson: That's a good concept. We're not really a political band, but there are things we like and we don't like. We know the difference between right

Kyle: We sing about not being a part of the problem. Don't consume unnecessarily. Don't buy the product because of a name. Don't support the big fuckers.

Jameson: Trying to win and losing, losing, losing. There's a song about acting auditions and getting shot down every time. But I had never auditioned for a band before this, and it turned out pretty

AU: Tell us about your favourite show you have ever played.

Jules: The Rickshaw with The Dreadnoughts. Dawson: The album release at the Buddha or any of the house parties here. We had a pool party and it was really sweaty. There were twelve people in a kiddie pool.

AU: What's the most bizarre thing that you have seen at your house?

Jameson: The fact that you look up in the morning and there are footprints all over the ceiling.... The craziest thing is how hot it gets in there. Drenched, sweaty, gross, packed... how punk shows should be. Small zones with tons of people. You're forced to get into it. It's not like someone is ever watching a show in our living room and being like "I'm not really into this." Bodies, booze, people singing along.

Dawson: We're always done the music by 11:00. You've got to follow the rules to make that shit

Jules: Everybody should turn their house into a party house.

Dawson: There need to be more parties in Vancouver. We've only ever played ours.

Jules: We've played three different houses, boys. Jameson: We're definitely playing house parties

AU: Jameson, vou're a pretty aggressive skier and cliffjumper. What's the craziest stunt you have ever pulled off?

Jameson: On skis?

Jules: In the bedroom.

Jameson: I did a heel tap one time [taps heel repeatedly]. Does it feel nice? No, in Whistler, I jumped off the Waterfall Cliff. Stomped it the first time, did it a second time, and the third time I broke my back.

AU: Kyle, can you explain the meaning of "hacking mad popdeer on the sumac?"

Kyle: Ripping darts. The sumac was what we called the gas station in high school.

Dawson: It's where the bad kids smoked and where we made all our friends.

AU: Which do you prefer, weed or beer?

Jules: I smoke a lot of weed.

Dawson: I couldn't go without weed. I don't know. Fuck, that's a good question. That's the hardest question I have ever been asked in my entire life. Jameson: Good question! This is a great interview!

Jules: If you have one beer, you can't even drive

anymore. I'm not condoning smoking and driving but you can smoke and drive a little bit. Drinking and driving, you can't get away with that. So, I'll



stick to my weed. And these guys definitely like their beers more. It's two versus two

AU: What was the influence for the song "Smells Like Ghetto?"

Jules: Jameson. Have you smelled him before? Jameson: White Spot. I worked there dishwashing Probably 80% of the kitchen staff were East Indian ladies. There was a mean fuckin' boss. He treated them like shit and they worked so hard. All of their sons were, like, doctors, or doing really well, and they were first generation immigrants. They're $\,$ still stuck in this job and their boss is a fuckin' dickhead. I know the White Spot kitchen smell, and every time I'd think "man, it smells like ghetto." The boss man being a rude jerk and it being a gross, mean situation. And the weird thing was, the boss had a wife and a brand new kid. So the last verse is about the dead-end generation. If you're gonna be a dickhead to these people vou're gonna raise a kid who's gonna be a dick and it's gonna keep on going.

AU: How would you describe the Vancouver punk scene to someone who is not from here?

Dawson: Homely.

Kyle: It's pretty friendly.

Jules: It's really easy to make friends. Everyone's stoked on music. Even when you suck, like us,

people are stoked

AU: Last words?

Kyle: Take care of each other.

Dawson: Don't leave anyone alone. I mean, if they

Jules: Are those really your last words?

Dawson: No

Kyle: Don't fucking quit, keep the scene alive.

Jules: Do it yourself. You can do it.

Jameson: We don't really know how to make albums or go on tour. There are kids who have never gone to a show before and might think. "I don't know how to go to a punk show." If that little kid checks it out and thinks, "fuck yeah, this is it," then we can go to Montreal.

Jules: Even if there is one person that is stoked on us on the other side of the country, that's pretty

facebook.com/Obscene-Being obscenebeing.bandcamp.com

PHOTO CREDIT: Jmoguly







DESCENDENTS

Punk Rock Bowling 2016 Interviews

By Ira Hunter

DESCENDENTS



Interview with vocalist Milo Aukerman

Absolute Underground: Where are we and who are we talking to?

Milo Aukerman: Milo Aukerman from Descendents. We're at Punk Rock Bowling.

AU: You guys are a staple of Punk Rock Bowling, it really brings out the people. I've seen people in the front row with tears running down their faces when you first played.

MA: Oh, jeez. I'm too busy, I can't see that. But I definitely like to go down there and pass the mic around, I'll have to look for the tears next time.

AU: You were just mentioning you have some newer songs in the works?

MA: Yeah we're putting out a new record. it's coming out at the end of July, it's called Hypercaffium Spazzinate and there are like 14 songs on there

and we want to start playing them, we can play them all but we've been practising six of them, we want to practice a lot more of them, and then work them into the set. But the big issue is that you have a set time slot, so what are you going to remove from your set to make room for the new ones. It's kind of like a Sophie's Choice kind of situation. But we're committed to playing as many of the new songs as we can live

AU: What is your favourite thing about Vegas, do you bowl or anything?

MA: I'm a passable bowler, but when I come here I'm so busy hanging out with my friends and watching bands I just never make it out to the bowling. Plus, I'm not that competitive about it.

AU: What is it about bringing in all these great old bands that people thought they might never see... the Stern brothers have really done a good job.

MA: It always astounds me the way that people are still drawn to this same, relatively narrow slice of punk rock culture. I grew up listening to all these LA punk bands and it's definitely something where I look back very fondly, but I wouldn't say it's a nostalgic trip per se, but I do feel like it was a very magical time in my life, so I can totally relate to other people wanting to experience some of that magic. So when I go to these types of festivals, half the bands up there are bands that I grew up listening to, and I get to see them again after 20 years. I just saw Agent Orange last time for the first time in like 30 years probably. DOA's playing tonight, I haven't seen them in probably 25 years,

AU: The Dayglo Abortions, they're playing as well. Are you coming back to Canada soon?

MA: Actually we don't have any gigs planned, we did play Toronto a while back, and Montreal. I would love to play Vancouver, but I think the closest we get is up to Seattle later on this year. But I would love to play Vancouver and make that happen.

AU: When you were first starting out, what were you trying to do to set yourselves apart. Was it a more intelligent, more emotional kind of

MA: I don't know if it was so much that, it was more just we were coming from a real spastic, nerdy background. The lyrics of our music aren't necessarily intelligent... it's just that we're all kind of nerds. I am the head nerd of the band, so that kind of gives us maybe more of that cerebral aspect, but I like to play punk rock and basically I like to turn my brain off and just rock out. So I don't think that we have any more intellectual aspirations than that.

AU: Final words for Canadian punk

MA: Hove Canada, we've gone up there now, in the past few years, we've been up there a half dozen times. I bring my kids now and my kids want to just move to Canada. In fact, we'll all probably move to Canada after this election's over, if you know what I mean descendentsonline.com

DESCENDENTS

Interview with bassist Karl Alvarez

Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to?

Karl Alvarez: I'm Karl Alvarez from Descendents and ALL, and we're just hanging out. Oh wait, you're Canadian, we're hanging oot.

AU: You've been with the Descendents and ALL since day one?



KA: No, I've only been in the band 30 years, Tony Lombardo, the original bass player, could not tour because he was already a grown man with adult responsibilities, so Doug Carrion was dragged into the band for a period and the Enjoy! album. He and Ray left, Frank Navetta quit long before this, Stephen Egerton and I had been playing in a band in Salt Lake City called the Massacre Guys, in the early 80s, and when Bill needed

a bass player I kinda responded and then Stephen came out, and Stephen and I have been playing together one way or the other since we were 12, so it kinda worked.

AU: What's the craziest Vegas story that you've got?

KA: Oh god. Okay I'll tell you one. We played Vegas as ALL back in 1989, and there were 12 people at the show. and the opening band was this outstanding band called

AU: What's it like being in The Descendents?

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{KA}}\xspace$ Well the punk rock fanzine guys were always of two minds on us... we ate a certain amount of shit, some of it justified, some not, if you're coming into a punk rock scene that's very political, as the 80s scene was, and you're doing stuff that's basically love songs, you're kind of immediately suspect. Some of the lyrics, in modern terms, might seem regrettable, specifically the song "I'm Not A Loser," and our use of the word "homo," but bear in mind, when those guys wrote that song, they were teenagers. The $\,$ times were different, and no-one was really that aware, we've spent a lot of time trying to explain to people that

we meant no harm.
Nowadays, people like
us, and I think there is,
[an aspect of] okay, we
stuck it out this long!
It's cool, we're clearly
committed, we're not
a pop band, we're a
punk band. We've
been around forever.

AU: I think when people do see you, even the most hardened punk will say, "Fuck, these guys are tight, those guys ripped," you know?

KA: The only thing interesting about our band is the way we play together. We're

not particularly good-looking or well-dressed or charismatic, we have no obvious political or social hook, we're just a bunch of guys who play music,

and the blankness of it works over time. I don't even know what to think. I do know that I have this distinct advantage where I was a fan of the band before I joined, and I can tell you what made them important to me, which had a lot to do with a certain over-the-top, snotty attitude, combined with the independence to say stuff that might not be popular in the songs, that might not get embraced by the punk rock community.

AU: I kinda feel like, even though emo is kind of a dirty word, but it was emotional music, it made you feel and



think.

KA: I'm trying to pin down what it is because, in my lifetime, that term has evolved from having a "core" attached to it, via bands like Soulside and stuff like that, to being "emo," which originally guys that looked like Weezer, kinda, and then eventually it grew into mascara and hair at one point, and I'm trying to get a beat on what the music is. For me, I guess you could make a case that maybe Modest Mouse is OG

emo, right? I think that term is really broad now, you know?

AU: So you think The Descendents were sort of proto-emo without knowing what it was?

KA: If that's the case, then so were the Buzzcocks.

AU: I agree.

KA: The bands that sang about that stuff really sang about that stuff.

AU: Love songs. KA: Generation X.

KA: Generation X. A lot of that. **AU: What are you**

AU: What are you stoked for this weekend, other than playing your show?
KA: We're about to

see FLAG, and that's like... Chuck and Keith and Dez have always been like our big brothers. We love them to death and I'm really looking forward to being able to watch them tear it up. As far as tomorrow's thing, I'm just gonna hang by the stage all day. Today I missed JFA and I'm kicking my ass about it, and I missed Youth Brigade and I'm gonna kick my ass about that too. So I'm going to make up the time tomorrow. I'm going to go see Neutral Boy at noon at the Beauty Bar.

AU: Final words for Canadian fans of punk

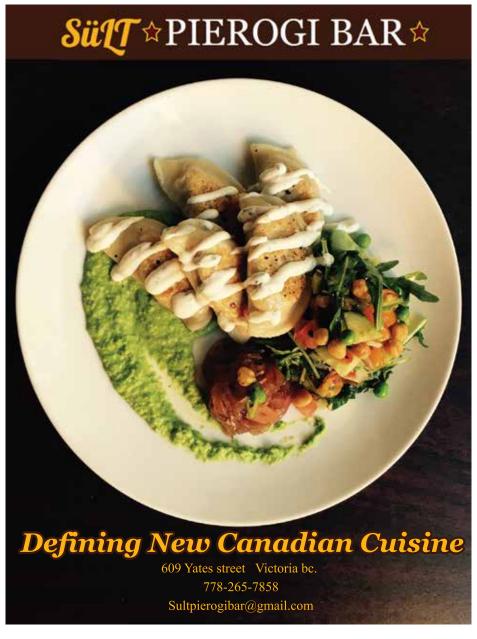
rock?

KA: There are no final words, this shit goes on and on. I'm gonna give a special shout out to the Winnipegians, because you guys fight it out in a hard place to fight it out, man. The Detroit of

descendentsonline.com allcentral.com







DESCENDENTS

Chris Sharv

Interview by Ira Hunter

Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to today and what are you most famous/ infamous for?

Chris Shary: My name is Chris Shary. I'm a punk artist [and] the guy who does virtually all of the Descendents and ALL artwork. I am also kinda known for my Sharpie portraits of punk legends and other pop culture folks.

AU: When did you first realize you wanted to be an artist?

CS: I knew I wanted to be an artist at age four. My family was living in Germany, as my dad was in the Air Force. My mom was at home with me, drawing and colouring a lot of the day. I knew it was what I wanted to do. When my dad brought home some Marvel comics from the motor pool, that was it. I knew exactly what I wanted to do with myself. I'm lucky I knew at a very early age and had very supportive parents.

AU: How would you describe your art style?

CS: My art style is very varied. I do caricature work, abstract work, and real loose, black and white Sharpie drawings, mainly. It's cartoony a lot, but with an art school understanding. I don't know...

AU: How did you first discover punk rock?

CS: Punk rock came to me via Billy Idol. I loved "Dancing With Myself," when it first came out, and I soon discovered it was actually a tune from Billy's first band, Generation X, a punk band. That lead me to the Clash and Sex Pistols. Once I heard the Sex Pistols though, it was all over. Everything else seemed so tame next to them.

AU: How did you first meet up with the Descendents?

CS: I met the guys from Descendents when they were in ALL, touring for Allroy Sez (my favourite ALL album). I soon did some flyer art for them,

and Bill liked it and asked if I wanted to do a shirt. Actually, I probably badgered them to do a shirt, and it kinda went from there. I think I did my first work officially with them in '91.

AU: How many variations of Milo have you drawn, what are some of the more humorous ones? Why do you think such a simple image has become so iconic?

was pretty funny and so stupid, too. It's kinda

of the best punk album of all time, MGTC. It's

AU: I met you a few years ago when they screened the movie *Filmage*, what are

your thoughts on the Descendents/ALL

brilliantly simple. I think it's so iconic because it's so simple to draw, and is associated with one

always a challenge to make it something new and

interesting, but it's my job, so I keep finding ways.

CS: Filmage is the finest band documentary next to the Sex Pistols' Filth & The Fury. It's so well put

together, and has something for everyone. It's

really just a great film, whether you know the

in it, and to do the cover for it. Deedle, Marisa,

band or not. It was an honour to be asked to be

Matt, James and Justin (the main folks behind it)

CS: Jeez, I've done hundreds of Milo variations, I'd guess Since the band started playing again in 2010, we have been going full-on with merch, and I have tried to pump out a lot of work. I did one for Philly of a Milo/Ben Franklin which was very funny, but ultimately wasn't used. There was one for FPSF where Milo was a cow. That

documentary?

just knocked it

outta the park.

happier with it!

AU: Were you

at Punk Rock

Bowling again

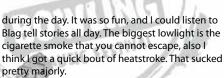
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AU: What are some other bands you have worked with?

Festival Highlights? Festival Lowlights?

CS: I was indeed at PRB! I make it every year

each year. Of course, Flag and Descendents

vere big highlights, but so were Buzzcocks,

The Bronx, Night Birds, Teenage Bottlerocket,

Good Riddance, and the acoustic set Blag and

and it's kinda one of my favourite things

Hewhocannotbenamed did

I worked with! Um, Chemical People, Big Drill Car, Libido Boys, White Flag, The Muffs, Teenage Bottlerocket, Hi-Standards, Lagwagon, Drag the River, The Germs, Agent Orange, TSOL, Adolescents, Tesco Vee, PEARS, Masked Intruder, Good Riddance, JFA, Me First, The Pandoras, The Stupids, Channel 3, Offl, The Lillingtons, Turbonegro, Vandals, Old Man Markley, The Dickies, The Aquabats, 7SECONDS, The Damned, Flag, Big Boys, Rancid, Kemuri, a lot more that I can't recall at the moment. These were just top-ofmy-head bands. Hang on, lemme get to the other ones in a second

CS: It might be easier to ask what bands haven't



I've drawn wandering around on humans. It's

pretty cool and I never get tired of it!

AU: Any upcoming events/art shows to

CS: Well, my wife is putting together a movie-

themed textile art show that I'll be in in LA in mid-

rad artists

AU: Do you create original art commissions for people/fans?

CS: I do commissions all the time, but I do not do Milo/Allroy/Descendents commissions.

AU: Website?

July with some

CS: I have a Facebook professional artist page and Instagram that I update almost daily, I draw a lot and there is a lot of activity with me in the social

AU: What was the concept of this years Punk Rock Bowling Descendents event shirt?

CS: The Vegas one was an Elvis Milo, and the Jersey one... well you'l have to wait and see.













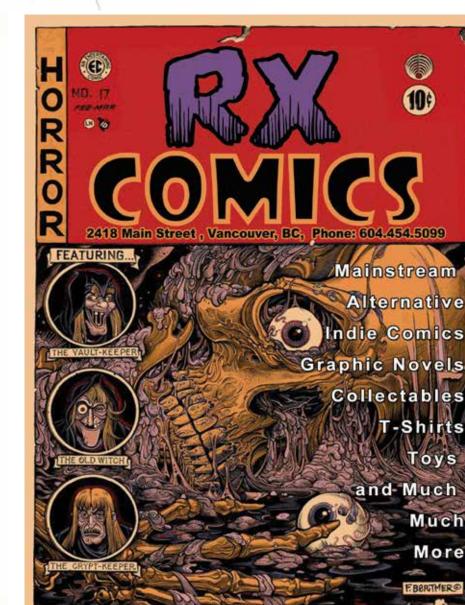
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Diamond Head By CC Getty

As one of the songs on their new self-titled album declares, "Our Time Is Now"... It seems nothing could be closer to the truth as Diamond Head are poised to take on the world like they never have before, forty years after their formation. As one of the progenitors of the NWOBHM, Diamond Head was a huge influence for bands like Metallica and Megadeth; one would have thought that the world would have been their oyster. However, the

music industry can be a cruel bitch sometimes and somehow Diamond Head never really got the attention they deserved. Until now...

"It's really great to have done a new album that has been getting so much outstanding press that it's really fired us up! It is a really good time for Diamond Head now," says founder and lead guitarist Brian Tatler. Despite using modern techniques to record a new album, the band really wanted to make the most of what's great about the Diamond Head back catalogue. "I wanted to write in [that] classic Diamond Head style," says Tatler, "I've got no intention of trying

to compete with modern metal bands. It would have been wrong to do

Taking Diamond Head to the next level since 2014 and keeping them true to their original sound is vocalist Rasmus Andersen. On the band's finding their new singer, Tatler said, "I think when I heard Ras... there was a quality in his voice that appealed to me. It didn't take me long to realize that Ras is a great singer, that he could easily do justice to the back catalogue... I like certain singers, and Ras just checked all the boxes for me." The band found Andersen when a friend of bass player Eddie Moohan recommended him. They sent him one of their toughest songs, the classic "To Heaven From Hell" for him record his vocals on, and when they got the file back, Brian said, "He made it sound easy, he wasn't straining

to reach and hold notes. The band and I said, 'This guy has got talent!''
They brought Andersen in for a full rehearsal and after only 30 minutes, they knew they had found the man to do the job. Their feelings were confirmed when they played their first show together later that year; when the fans reacted immediately and began singing along, Brian and the band knew they had made the right choice.
Getting back to the new record, despite wanting to stick to the bands classic sound, Andersen very much wanted his lyrics to be a reflection of today's times. "It is very much about the

environment." he told me. "I come from a

generation where growth and technology [are] expanding so exponentially that the future is very much unclear. Everything is moving so fast that we don't know where we will be in the next ten years. There are so many global factors that I draw inspiration from, how I feel and what I see going on in the world... which isn't what Diamond Head normally does, but I needed to write that." Andersen's lyrics and style have truly brought Diamond Head into the 21st century, as the disc is a true reflection of our troubled times. Aside from contributing to lyrics, Andersen has also brought his love of cinematic composition to Diamond Head, scoring and adding orchestration via MIDI technology to the tracks "All The Reasons," and the epic-sounding album closer, "Silence," further taking Diamond Head's sound to new heights. When asked about the reaction from the press and, more importantly, the fans, Tatler said, "I am blown away by the reaction, I didn't expect anything like this. I knew [the CD] was good, but I didn't expect this kind of blanket reaction from the press. It's justification. It's a lot of work, so much time and effort goes into making a record, so for as many people to have said that they like it, it's all we need as encouragement to play it live and maybe even make another album. From the die-hard fans to people that have never heard of us before, this is some of the best press I have ever seen for Diamond Head."

With all the good vibes surrounding the new CD, a full slate of European festival dates booked this summer, and a North American tour recently announced for November, Diamond Head's time is definitely now.

www.diamond-head.net

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2016 PRB ALLEY ENCOUNTERS

Bv Ira Huntei

THE SOAKERS



AU: What are you guys all about,?

The Soakers: We're The Soakers and we make everything really wet. The Soakers from

AU: What's the best thing about bowling? TS: Beers and babes.

AU: How much pre-drinking goes into this?

TS: It'll get messy in a little bit. I had a beer in the shower this morning.

AU: What are people missing out on if they don't come to Punk Rock Bowling?

TS: It's all about the shows and the camaraderie, the drinking, and fun.

AU: What kind of soaking is it, is it a

SuperSoaker or what?

TS: We can't really get into what kind of soaking it is. Sexual in nature. They do it in Utah, it's a Mormon thing.

AU: There was a bowling team called Bowl-kkake... is it like that?

TS: I don't know what that is, but it sounds pretty similar. Look up soaking when you get home.

AU: Craziest thing you've seen in Vegas?
TS: I saw two Michael Jackson impersonators trying to fight each other. That was pretty

AU: What bands are you guys stoked on?

TS: Stoked on Buzzcocks, Descendents Millencolin, and Dillinger Four.

AU: Final words

TS: Soakers, soak!

SNAKES ON A LANE



AU: What's the name of your bowling team?

SOAL: We are Snakes On A Lane!

AU: Snakes on a mothafuckin' Lane! SOAL: Damn right.

AU: Does Samuel L. Jackson know that

SOAL: He actually is our sponsor, he sends money in to support us and makes sure that we can occasionally break a hundred.

AU: How much training goes into this bowling tournament?

SOAL: It's all drinking, and occasionally we

AU: What's the craziest thing you've seen in Vegas?

SOAL: Everything seems normal. I have been coming here since 1999 and if you haven't en a passed out guy on the lawn, you're

AU: Hashtag passedoutpunks.

SOAL: We started it and we're going to end

AU: What bands are you excited for?

SOAL: The Bronx for sure, and I'm thinking about ditching the festival and going to see Joan Jett... but otherwise, Agent Orange, Teenage Bottlerocket, Descendents

AU: Describe the whole feeling of this

SOAL: If you're a punk rocker, it's home They're playing the music you want to hear. Sometimes they bring back bands that you thought you'd never see.

RICHARD HEDDERS



AU: What's your bowling team all about?

RH: Richard Hedders, we're all about drinking beer and having a good time.

AU: Are you all related, are you all

RH: We're all Hedders, yes. We're related in one way or another, just like the Ramones.

AU: Describe your logo.

RH: It's based on the band we once had called the Richard Hedders. The band turned into a bowling team. We weren't a good band so we thought maybe we'd be a good bowling team. And maybe we will, it's only year nine! We've made it to the finals twice

AU: So the more you drink, the better you do?

RH: That's been the trend for myself, I can't speak for the others

AU: This is beer nine and it's only noon right now?

RH: Yes.

AU: What's the craziest thing you've seen in Vegas in your years of bowling?

RH: Craziest thing... holy smokes. Probably the Dukes of Haggard, a little skinny ass dude with Daisy Dukes shorts on, humping my leg, was probably the craziest thing. It was the most awkward thing... I got an erection, which was when it got really awkward.

AU: He looks great and then he turns around and you realize he's a dude.

RH: Nah we knew he was a dude the whole

AU: What bands are you guys stoked on?

RH: I saw Poison Idea last night, they were great, Descendents are always good to see. So many good bands, there are too many.

AU: Describe the whole Punk Rock Bowling experience..

RH: It's all about shows, shows, shows, and

more shows. Everyone getting together, having a good time, and a lot of drinking. They say what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas, except herpes.

AU: It's kind of like an endurance test, you've really gotta giver to go to bowling, the pool parties, the festival, the club

RH: It's a marathon. You can't sprint, or you'll be in trouble.

M SECTION



AU: Who are we talking with?

Matt: M Section from Santa Rosa, California. This is Matt

AU: How much pre-drinking is involved in bowling?

M: We woke up at 7 am today, and then we had about several beers.

AU: What's the craziest thing you've ever seen at Punk Rock Bowling?

M: I think the worst thing I've seen was when someone pissed in the ice machine. That was lewd.

AU: What's the delay here, why aren't you bowling yet?

M: Because half the people that are supposed to be bowling are probably still







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AU: What bands are you stoked on this weekend?

M: Poison Idea, The Descendents, and The

AU: Are you guys in a band?

M: Yeah, M Section. It's fast, tricky, pretty fun, you will not regret seeing the band

AU: Final words for Canadians, what are they missing?

M: The NHL playoffs! They're missing ten pins, because they usually play with five, right? What is it, the Amish bowl fifteen frames? You don't wanna get Munsoned

GUTTER SLUTS



AU: What are you most infamous for?

GS: Getting turkeys and four bangers all day. Our team Gutter Sluts is a family affair, we're all here together having fun and trying to win it all!

AU: Are the dudes the Gutter Sluts, and the chicks?

GS: Gutter Sluts, chicks, dudes, all of us, it's everybody, whoever wants to bowl with us and have fun.

AU: How much pre-drinking goes into bowling?

GS: Tons of pre-drinking. Whiskey, vodka, tequila, clear, dark, beer, shotguns, whatever we need to do to loosen up a little bit.

AU: What's your craziest Vegas story?

GS: Probably throwing up in the elevator when I was trying to find my room, having to have my cousin look for me because I didn't remember what hotel I was at.

AU: What bands are you stoked on?

GS: I'm stoked on all the bands, but now we're going to practice, because we're going to try to win it all!

BOWLTRON



AU: What's the name of your bowling

AU: Do you guys transform?

B: Transform into a suck palace, yes When the Bowltron assembles, we're an unstoppable bowling machine, and I fulfill the vital role of being the butt.

AU: You hold the team together.

B: I squeeze it tight together. If we're going to be shitty, it's going to be on me.

AU: How much training goes into this event?

B: We've had about four days of just straight alcoholic nonsense

AU: What bands are you looking forward to?

B: I really want to get into the Chron Gen and I'm going to go to The Stitches and The Briefs.

AU: Is Bowltron a band?

B: No! Christie has been punk rock bowling

with Bowltron for like 12 years... Yeah! And she just got a strike like a fuckin' boss. Bowltron! Bowltron! Bowltron!

BLACK HOPE CURSE



you all about?

BHC: Black Hope Curse, fuck bitches, get money. That's what we're all about.

AU: Is that like a band?

BHC: No, it's a clothing company

AU: What is it about bowling that attracts so many punks?

BHC: I think it's just smashing shit, getting drunk with your friends and tearing the vorld down. What's more punk than that? There's nothing like when you get a strike and you hear that loud smash of the pins going down.

AU: Describe what just happened. BHC: I got a strike!

AU: How much pre-drinking goes into this

BHC: At least a weeks' worth of pre-drinking. You've gotta just get drunk for a whole week beforehand.

AU: So it's like training?

BHC: Yeah, it's a mental toughness, you've gotta build up your alcohol tolerance, bowl drunk so you can at least stay on somewhat of an even keel.

AU: What's the craziest thing you've seen?

BHC: OH MY GOD! That's the craziest shit I've seen right there... boom. She was walking away because one pin was still up and then as she turned her back, it teetered over and boom! Strike!

AU: You guys are on fire. How would you describe the clothing line?

BHC: It's a tattoo / occult brand, so we work with dark tattooers from all over the world.

AU: What's the craziest thing you've seen no. what's the trazest ming you vesel in Vegas.... WHOA! Another strike, you guys are killing it, this is the best team I've ever interviewed!

BHC: I've been here 13 years there are so many crazy things, from bowling my first couple years, falling down the lane, to bowling eight months pregnant and taking third place.

AU: What bands are you excited for?

BHC: Ministry H2O, Death by Stereo. Going to go see Joar Jett tonight, and then we'r going to go see The Briefs, The Dwarves, escendents

AU: What's the website for your clothing

BHC: www blackhopecurse com



Absolute Rusiness Profil



Records

Interview by Ira Hunter

Absolute Underground: What's the history of your store, Hits and Misses Records?

Pete Genest: I first started a store in 1992. That was in Portland, Oregon, which is where I was living at the time. That store was called Roundhouse Records. I left Portland in 1996 and moved to Seattle. That is where I opened Singles Going Steady, which is still open to this day though I am not the owner anymore! I owned that store for 10 years. I sold part of my stock to the new owner, and that was basically enough money to move back to Toronto (where I was born) and open up a new store. I wanted a new name for the store, [so I took] took a Stiff Little Fingers song title and used that.

AU: What types of music and bands do you specialize in?

PG: When you walk into Hits And Misses, you will find almost anything associated with rock'n roll from the 50s until present. Though the main focus of the store is punk and metal, there are lots of other genres in there. Lots of classic rock has been coming in the door since I opened. On top of the regular new bins of punk, hardcore, metal, garage and crust, there are lots of used LPs and lots of singles. I was always a sucker for singles!

AU: What prompted your move from Toronto to Vancouver?

a tough city for what I am selling. I was open there at two different locations for almost five years. What prompted the move was an eviction notice from the landlord! It turned out to be a blessing in disguise, though.

AU: Have any band members of note been into your shop in the past?

PG: Besides guys from local bands in the cities I have been in, there would be Keith Morris, Henry Rollins, Thurston Moore, Andrew WK, Steve Ignorant (he did a meet-and-greet in Toronto), $\mathsf{G}\mathsf{G}$ Allin did one of those in Portland, as well. The bass player from Nirvana and one of the guitarists from Pearl Jam used to pop into the Seattle store once in a while, too.

AU: How did you first become exposed to these types of music?

PG: I was hearing The Clash, Elvis Costello and such on the radio, but it really was when my brother sent me a mixtape of his band's demo and a bunch of other stuff in the summer of 1981. I was hooked! The tape had DOA, Subhumans. Sham 69, The Ruts, and on and on.

AU: What sets your store apart from others?

PG: Good selection and lots of collectible records, not at gauging prices

AU: What's been the secret of your success and longevity?

PG: [I'm] a glutton for punishment, I guess. I have never been very successful at any of the stores that I have run. It's been a "barely-scrape-by" and "live-off-credit" kind of success! Luckily, I have a very modest lifestyle.

AU: What other items do you have for sale in your shop?

PG: Buttons, patches, back patches, and some

AU: What is it about vinyl that draws so many people?

PG: Well as I have said in the past, vinyl is the preferred medium for punk... [It] always has been, and always will be.

AU: What are your thoughts on the current state of things in music?

PG: I hate that the major labels are trying to make records hip again. It is really their last-ditch attempt of selling music. Re-pressing AC/DC $\,$ records and selling them for \$40 has done two things; it has raised the prices that some stores sell originals for, and it has also made people

dumb enough to buy \$40 reissues when they can source them out at a real record store for \$10. It is only for a matter of time that [major labels] can pull the wool over people's eyes, and then they will be fucked again.

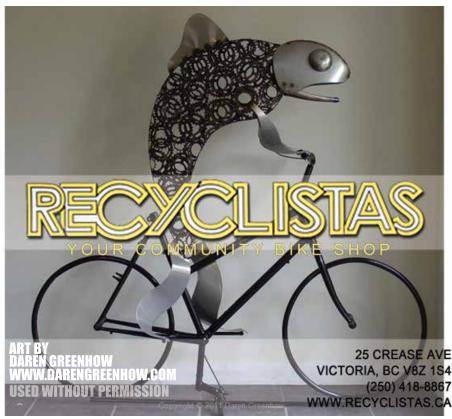
AU: Final words of wisdom?

PG: Don't open up a record store unless you have a shit-ton of money in the bank!

AU: Store address and website?

PG: 2629 E. Hastings in Vancouver. No website, but we are on Facebook and Instagram at Hits And Misses Records.

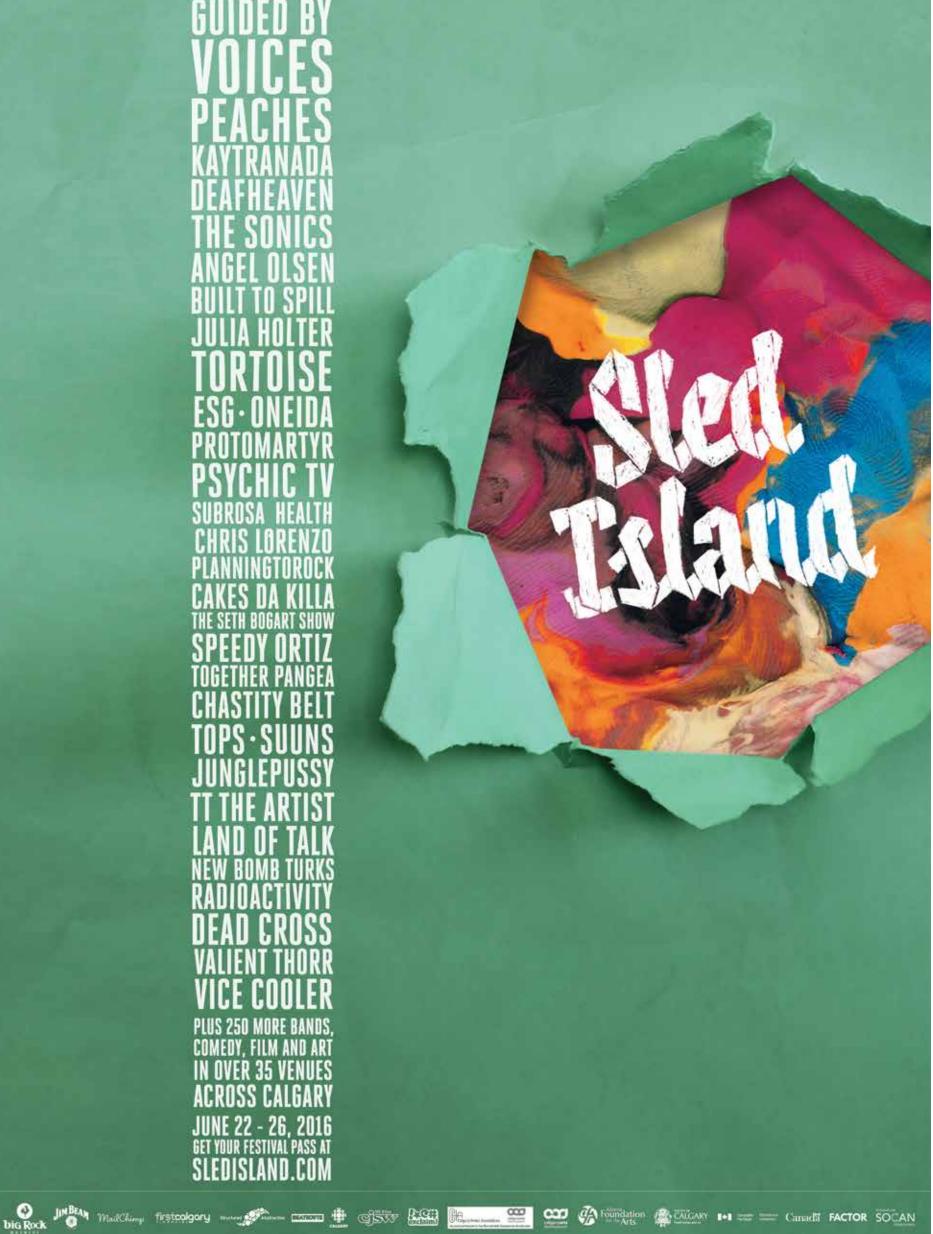
facebook.com/hitsandmissesrecords instagram.com/hits_and_misses_records

























Vancouver Fetish Weekend

Interview by AU Editorial

Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to and what are you most infamous for?

Isaac T: I'm Isaac T, aka DJ Pandemonium, organizer of fetish, alternative and counterculture events in Vancouver for almost 20 years now. Other than as a long-standing DJ in Vancouver, I'm by far most well-known as the organizer of Sin City Fetish Night, which just celebrated its 15-year anniversary, and Vancouver Fetish Weekend, which is now in its fourth year.

AU: What was your first experience in the fetish world?

IT: That is a hard one to pin down! I started first as an event organizer in the underground alternative/goth/industrial scene back in the mid-90s, and back in those days, that scene and the fetish scene were heavily overlapped, much more so than they are now. You'd have all sorts of wild characters coming out who were more sexually expressive, with far more diverse and kinky

tastes than your average person, dominatrixes, submissives, leather boys and more hanging out at the goth nights, which very much were a crossroads for many members of the kinky community in the way the more common fetish events of today are. Remember, back in those days, there were no cameras in clubs, no internet,

lots of crazy stuff went on. Eventually, this led to checking out the local fetish nights here in Vancouver, and getting more and more involved, until we eventually started our own way back in May of 2001, and it's been full steam ahead ever since, with an incredible show of support from the local kink community for a decade and a half now!

AU: Tell us about the upcoming Vancouver Fetish Weekend.

IT: The Vancouver Fetish Weekend is a four-day festival of day and night events celebrating kink in all its forms, opening our doors and inviting the international fetish community to check out our wonderful city and local scene. It originally grew out of Sin City's huge anniversary parties, but it's also grown to include many other local groups as well who contribute and help make it as amazing a festival as it is. It's also by far the biggest party of the year for our local kink scene, with huge events, international fetish performers, designers, and people from all over the world descending on the city for one gigantic hedonistic party where everyone can transform themselves into the kinky creatures they truly are and let loose in an overthe-top, inspiring, exhilarating, and safe, sexually expressive environment. There's DJs, dancing, all sorts of crazy fetish wear, vendors, dungeon play

areas, fetish fashion shows, crazy stage shows, fire shows, after parties, and all events have a strict fetish dress code ... in short, it's one hell of a perverted party!

AU: Who are some of the special guests attending?

IT: This year is by far our biggest lineup of international and local talent for the fetish performances of the festival – Just off the top of my head, we have Masuimi Max from Las Vegas coming, Cervena Fox from the Pyrohex fire performance group in London, Val Vampyre from the mighty Fetish Factory in Florida. The Lost Girls, Valynne Vile, Frankie Faux, Villainy Loveless, Lola Frost,

Jane Smoker, Samantha Mack, Rubbout... not to mention our massive fetish fashion show with global trend-setters Dawnamatrix Latex from Seattle and Pandora Deluxe Latex from London!

AU: I hear there is a fetish cruise planned as well, what will that entail?

IT: The Fetish Cruise is a privately chartered cruise which is a bonus event on the Sunday night for about 200 lucky weekend pass holders who grabbed weekend passes before space on the cruise ran out. It is by far the jewel in the crown of the whole weekend, with a yacht tricked out with DJs, dance areas, and all sorts of kinky fetish play areas. As you can imagine, it gets pretty wild! It docks at sundown with a limo bus waiting, which shuttles everyone to the closing party at the Penthouse, where the madness continues.

AU: Any advice for newbies to the scene?

IT: Vancouver Fetish Weekend, Sin City, and most fetish club events are very newbie-friendly! If you are an absolute first-timer, the fetish dress code can seem daunting, and it might be the single thing you stress about the most before coming to your first event, but it will be the first thing you forget about once you get inside and find yourself in a sea of amazing, respectful, fun-loving kinky people who are all on the same page. Literally everyone who comes to

the party helps make it what it is by adding their creativity into the mix. Lower your guard, shed your inhibitions a little, and you'll be surprised how amazing of a time you will have. Fetish parties have a way of ruining people for regular events, which never seem the same afterwards!

AU: Any fashion tips to help people adhere to the fetish dress code of these events?

IT: We have an amazing store here called Deadly Couture, which stocks an incredible array of different styles for every comfort level, with loads of options for both guys and girls. If you're absolutely new, that's your first stop for sure, the staff will take care of you! There's tons and tons of photos and videos on the website which you can browse to see what people are wearing and look for inspiration, but the general rule is, all outfits have to be kinky / risqué / sexy / perverted / daring / fetish in some way. Absolutely no plain day wear! If you could walk down the street in it and no one would bat an eye, probably it won't pass muster and you need to kink it up a little more. Trust us, everyone will love it and appreciate it. The more expressive people are, the more fun they tend to have!

AU: What are some of the differences between the scene in Vancouver and other places you have travelled?



IT: Well, one of the greatest things about the Vancouver scene is that we are a melting pot of many communities, all coming together with of a shared love of kinky self-expression. The Vancouver scene is a healthy mix of straight, GLBTQ+, crossdressers, young, old, alternative, festival, burlesque, BDSM, regulars, newbies, singles, couples, swingers ... everyone vou can think of is in the mix having a great time. We are a bunch who are serious about having a super fun and kinky time, but at the same time don't take it too seriously. Many scenes in other cities are

not like that – they can be way more serious or more commonly, the crowd is made up of a much smaller cross-section of communities and subcultures represented. Many other scenes also are mostly basic black when it comes their kink wear. Not so here - the Vancouver scene is not shy about being zany and colourful! Our local fetish scene is almost like Vancouver's best-kept secret we have this world-renowned fetish scene here that at this point is internationally recognized, yet so many people here who theoretically report on local culture locally still have no idea! Luckily #Absolute Underground# knows where's it's at!

AU: What are some other events/nights you organize?

IT: Every three months I co-produce an event called SPANK, which is the absolutely bonkers electro-sexual lovechild of myself from Sin City and Matt Troy from the Vancouver Arts & Culture



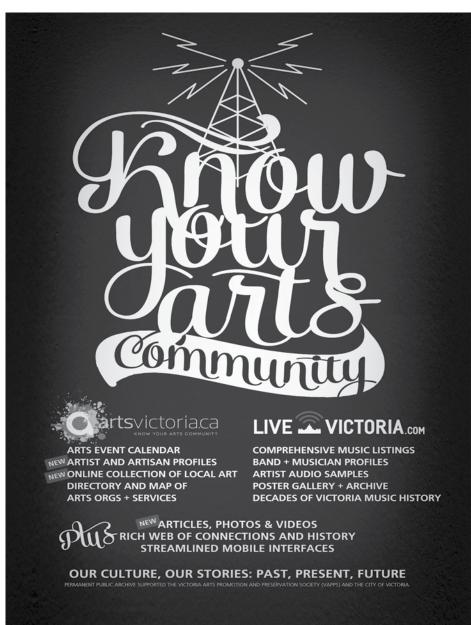
Center. That party is a BEAST and exploded almost immediately into a sold-out event every time. The party is all-electronic, drag and gender-bending, dancing mania and sex-positive play galore. My other major event these days is MADHAUS, a monthly two-room goth/industrial/alternative/ psytrance party, which is the successor to the much-missed Sanctuary, which ran for 16 years, but retired as a weekly event in 2013. Lastly every now and then we throw and event called GALAXION, which is a retro/gamer night, complete with a mini-arcade built into whatever bar we invade, retro gaming systems on all the TVs, new wave music all night, the whole nine yards. It's crazy fun.

AU: Final words for fetish fans reading this?

IT: Give in to sin! If there's one event you make it to this year, you owe it to yourself to come to Vancouver Fetish Weekend and jump in off the deep end! Come to the dark side ... you're gonna like it. We won't bite, unless you ask us to!

www.vancouverfetishweekend.com www.sincityfetishnight.com







World Ski and Snowboard Festival

By Brydon Parker

World Ski and Snowboard Festival

WSSF stands for World Ski and Snowboard Festival,

which is held every April in Whistler, BC. I have been coming to this event for 16 years, and the last few years I've been covering the event for Absolute Underground. It has been a semi-free working vacation... we have been



hired to do live camera feed for the event, and we apply for media passes as we cover this event in this magazine. We have also made entries in the illustrious 72-Hour Filmmaker Showdown for the last six years. I figured this year would be no different... my brother Stirling and I wrote a story called "Gondo Life." When I envisioned the storyline, I was thinking of myself actually doing the storyline as a prank. I had it all figured out, from start to finish, in the blink of a eye. Loosely, it is a story about a guy who moves to Whistler, buys a ski pass, but can't afford to pay rent. Our hero notices the ski pass does not say that you can't stay in the gondola all day long, so I get a graveyard shift job, and move on into the gondola. Hilarity ensues. So I write the script with my brother, and we actually asked WSSF through various departments, and nobody said "no." I emailed the script and did all kinds of pre-work, including going in-person to the head office and meeting with folks there, still not receiving a "no." Game on... Stirling goes crazy, as he has been elected to direct this year's effort. We cast it, and Stirling builds sets that will turn the gondola into a dream home floating high in the sky. We arrived a day early and dropped off a trailerload of props at the peak-topeak gondola. I started getting emails that evening that definitely had the, "I don't think this is gonna happen," vibe to them. So, like all film producers who are poised to leap into an all-encompassing production that is about to totally derail, I ignored

them and proceeded as planned. Even when the operations manager was asking what was going on, I explained, "I have four emails saying it's good to go, all I need is the ok from you and I have two emails I sent with to you with no reply, so I take that as a yes! I am making this show for Whistler's 72-Hour Film Fest, after all. I have spent \$3600 bucks making this happen, and I am not about to pull the plug." I could see he was in a heated argument with the higher ups who were telling him to let me do it. I could tell he wanted to shut it down, but he was told to let it happen. We had a blast shooting it. Stirling said it was the most fun ever. The best part about not directing or starring is that I got to actually check out this year's festival, the music, art, sport party is what it is all about, and anybody can find a genre of music they like. DOA played a sold-out show at the Garibaldi Lift, in the company of Five Alarm Funk. There was also old-schoolers the Hair Farmers, and Matt the Alien, as well as my pick for this year, A Tribe Called Red. The first evening of the festival was roller derby; the Brick House Betties from Comox vere up against a super team from an amalgamatior of Squamish

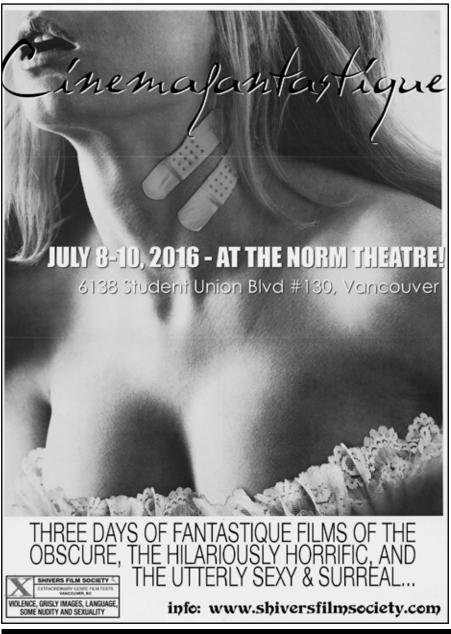
and Whistler's toughest chicks, who prevailed once again, keeping the crown in the valley. The Gibbons freestyle sessions mens'

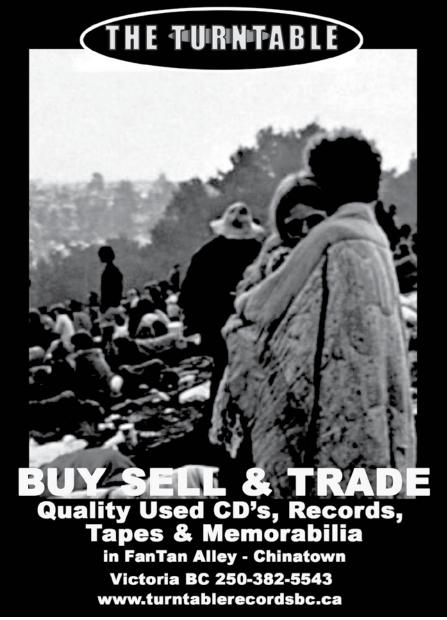


and womens' winners, Spencer O'Brian, Kaya Turski, Tyler Nicholson, Evan MCeachran, Stephanie Haynes, and Felix Dallaire, took the Monster board style event, the Athletes Ramp up, and are progressing the sport in front of thousands who will never forget the spectacle that is the WSSF. My friend Angie Nolan took the 72-Hour Film Fest prize - I didn't mind losing to Angie, mostly because her film was great. Jussi Grznar took the Pro-Photo Showdown. Ten days of high-intensity input, non-stop partying, filming, and shredding kickass snow really beats a guy down... sleep is critical, but totally unavailable. We are going again in 2017, if they let us.

wssf.com









Bovine Sex Club

Interview by AU Editorial

Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to today?

Darryl Fine: Darryl Fine from Bovine Sex Club in Toronto

AU: Congratulations on 25 years of the Bovine Sex Club! Can you give us a history of this venue please?

DF: In the late 80s, I was the junior collaborator in an after-hours dance club in Toronto called 23 HOP. My senior (the two more important brains) partners in crime were legendary radio and club DJ Chris Sheppard, and business impresario and sound and technology genius, Wesley "Happy Dog" Thuro. The club lasted through the early 90s. I was the hospitality component of the trio, spending my youth washing dishes, bartending and selling shows.

Toward the middle of 1990 we plotted the opening of the Bovine. Trips to NYC for inspiration and crazy times led us to the construction model we have still have today: The place is essentially made of junk and recycled materials. We opened the first portion of the Bovine on January 2nd, 1991. It was a quiet night (despite the thousands who claim to have attended, ha). The first real parties were set up for three weeks later. We were rammed and busy from then on. Kind of "Rock n Roll Cheers" for

rockers, punks, bands and babes (and babes in bands, of course).

AU: How did it get its unusual name? Was it ever a swingers club for animal lovers?

DF: Haha, no, the club mentioned above (23 HOP) had a very funny T-shirt produced with a cartoon cow, with a thought bubble above its head that said, "23 HOP is not the Bovine Sex Club." The t-shirt was a hit. Made people laugh and Wesley thoughtfully stored its success in his grey matter until we were ready to talk about the name of the new place. So no swingers club, although many reading will have claimed to have had sex inside its washrooms, or on the old pool tables, or in the legendary Green Room, in the basement, most are rumours. I have heard so many sex stories, it's almost frightening. Bovine, of course, is Latin for hoof-footed, four-legged mammals, cows... but I haven't seen any having sex in the club.

AU: What sets it apart from other bars in Toronto?

 $\label{eq:def:DF:I} DF: I \ think \ the \ regulars \ are \ the \ most \ consistent \ of$ Toronto's punk and rock bars. Plus, the bands that come through town have made it their home away from home, longstanding relationships have been built between the punk, rock and metal bands and the club. It's the place where they find community and a little bit of trouble when they visit Toronto - info on treats, afterhours parties, food, beverage and accommodation, and let's not forget hookups! Social media is way younger than the club. We also provide a forum for live music that can be the incubator for young breaking bands... introducing them to the audiences, the music media, and Queen St. W. For whatever reason, the music industry has been hanging in the building for the duration, seeing shows, putting on showcases etc. without upsetting the culture inside. They partied in the club along with the

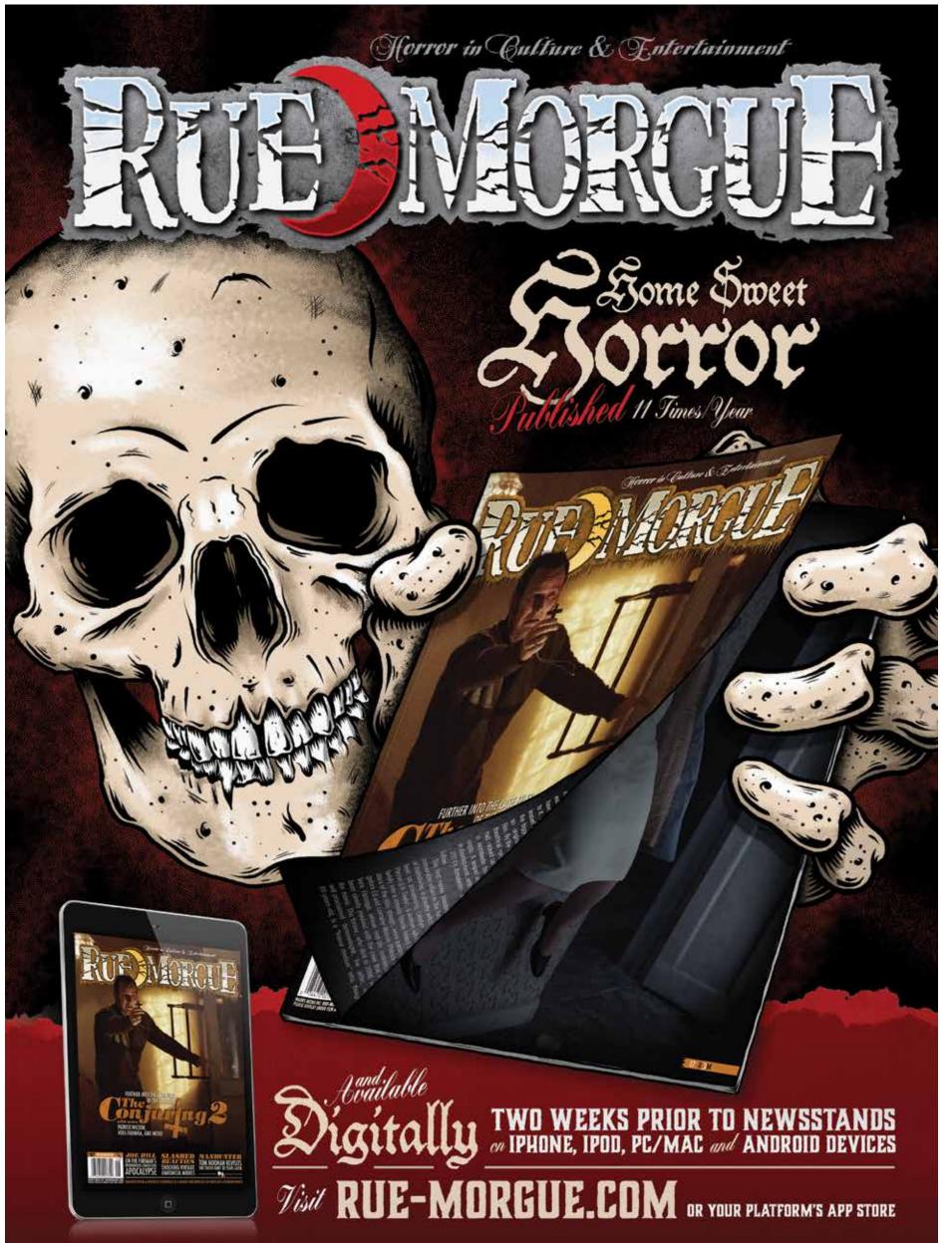
AU: What is the secret to the venue's longevity?

bands they were trying to develop.

DF: That's a tricky question... but luck has to be a big part of the equation, and change, as well.

www.bovinesexclub.com





Absolute Horror

The Cinema Fantastique

(Sex & Horror)

By Vince D'Amato

I was recently in Netherworld Collectibles in Burnaby, BC, when I overheard a customer chatting with the proprietor and telling him, rather loudly so that most of the store could accidentally overhear

him, that he, "...doesn't watch new horror movies at all because most of them seem really cool, but they just disappoint." Well, to be perfectly honest, this was a sentiment I shared for along time, until about a year and a half ago... One of the problems with new horror cinema was the perception that the genre itself was precipitating over its intended audience - new filmmakers were either pushing forth pretentious projection of their work that they considered highbrow, or, to use the term some of these filmmakers were using five years ago, an "upper echelon" of horror cinema. This basically meant a cool-looking horror flick with no sex or nudity, which, throughout the eighties and nineties had been required tropes for the genre, along with the blood, guts, and

scares. These "upper echelon" films, like House of the Devil, The Innkeepers, Mulberry Street, and to half this degree, You're Next, also barely delivered on the guts and gore aspect, usually saving such

frivolities to the very end of their respective films (as I said, You're Next was somewhat of an exception, and as added bonus points, it had Barbara Crampton in it!) On the flipside, if a horror fan did want a little nudity or eroticism included within his genre fare (artistically, of course), one would be forced to turn to the ridiculous

- indie films like Call Girl of Cthulhu or the exploitive (and yet vapid) Hollywood remakes of the aforementioned 80s horror films. There was nowhere for us to turn to the seriously good side horror cinema that wasn't afraid to be sexy as hell as well.

In December last year, I wrote my first Absolute Horror article; the inspiration for that article had been the recent releases of independent horror films that had finally started to change the face of indie horror into something more sophisticated, more energetic,

more suspenseful for audiences (such as myself) who have learned not to rely on the studio PG-13 output for their morbid frights. We have been ushered, by these new indie horror filmmakers, into an era of films that may have originally been inspired by the likes of Friday the 13th or the films of John Carpenter, Wes Craven, and Sam Raimi, but nonetheless do not care to wear these influences outright on their sleeves. Instead, these filmmakers are now often twisting and flipping the influences to such a degree as to design some very intense, visceral, and even darkly comedic low-budget scares. And they're pretty clever about it, too. Thanks to the critically and commercially successful Scarlett Johansson sci-fi horror/thriller Under the Skin and the hugely popular indie horror hit

It Follows, we're starting to see a little sexiness reappearing in our horror fare - following these two commercial releases, it seems to all be suddenly okay once again for a horror movie to be sexually aware, instead of pretending that people don't have it. (Meanwhile,

Brain DePalma remained cemented in the gorgeously sexy slasher/thriller genre with his latest outing, Passion, most criminally under-screened on this side of the world). But before we fully get back into sexy, allow me to talk about a very clever realization of the horror film that I came across about two days $\frac{1}{2}$ before writing this piece - a little film called The Last Shift which is an hallucinogenic mindfuck regarding a lone young female police rookie hired to guard a defunct police station the before it's permanently closed. It gets off to an edgy start and just gets totally intense from there, as our protagonist becomes trapped in the tomb-maze of the old station while running into some quite literal ghosts of the past who are hellbent on driving her insane. This small-scale horror flick calls up the intensity of the modern horror classic It Follows, as does new director Benjamin Moody's Last Girl Standing, which had its inspirational roots

> in the aforementioned Friday the 13th, but takes the idea of "the final girl" into dizzyingly outrageous and wholly intense territory. Last Girl Standing has been a festival hit in 2015 and 2016, and will be screening at this summer's Cinemafantastique Fest in Vancouver (July 8-10) along with some other amazing contemporary horror films that are far more steeped in the sexy, hallucinogenic, and the psychedelic: from the Burlesque-noir Cruel Tale of the Medicine Man and L.A. artist Anna Biller's erotic 60s throwback The Love Witch, to the erotic Lovecraft homage Harvest Lake (which, incidentally, is a far cry from Call Girl of Cthulhu). The funnier side of genre cinema is also celebrated in B-movie maverick Ron Bonk's She Kills, and Canadian Ryan LaPlante's Holy Hell: and Hell Town – which is an astoundingly witty homage to Lynch's Twin Peaks. Alongside these films is the more intense Last Girl Standing and the neo-giallo The Red Man, but sexy does tend to reign supreme in this lineup



as it does with the collection of short films selected for the film fest also range from the off-the-wall bloodfest El Gigante (from Luchagore productions) to the very sexy First Love and Mistress C. The sexy and the funny (the bloody funny) collide in the French short, Bitch, Popcorn & Blood, Indeed, the international collection of very sexy nightmares that populate this year's Cinemafantastique



Fest are the films you're not likely to see at other film festivals on the west coast. With any luck, most of the films here will find some sort of distribution, but we're living in a funny time now when it comes to cinema culture. Hard media really is dying and has been niche for some time now. It opens up the opportunity for the atrical $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1$ exhibition for films like these, but cinema has been crawling along towards a slow death, too, despite there being more film festivals in the world than any other time in history. Our venues are disappearing, and film festivals have dared to go digital, like the media itself. Despite this, there are die-hard cinema fans (like myself) who actively participate in the lumbering medium, who love to discover obscure on under-distributed gems. With horror filmmakers no longer settling for the easy low-budget go-tos of the zombie or vampire sub-genres, it is inspiring to see that so many independent genre films released over the last fifteen months have supplied us with some real, visceral thrills. So here's to filmmakers keeping the sexy, the erotic, the nudie-cutie, the fun, and the intense, in our serious - and darkly funny - horror cinema. Cheers!

Cinemafantastique runs July 8-10 this year at the Norm Theatre at





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Ask The Cretin

By Murray Acton

So, by the skin of our nuts, we make it to another issue... just barely though, after dodging a couple more "guaranteed near-extinction events." Only a couple of days ago, a 2.5 km-wide meteor was going to slam into our planet, destroying absolutely everything. I must have slept through that one, because I didn't feel so much as a fart in the dark. The other one was earlier in the month, an unspecified cataclysm that obviously didn't happen. This one is a bit of a shocker though, because it came from a supposedly very reliable source: God. Apparently, he/she/it had told this American woman that our gig was up. Well, it seems that God has decided to start operating in the same way as our politicians; just tell the masses what they want to hear, make a bunch of empty promises to them that will never be fulfilled, then put them in jail or send them to Hell if they complain about it, which brings us to this issue's question. "Gee, Murray, you have this record called The Armageddon Survival Guide, and Armageddon seems to be a constant threat to the human race. So, how do you survive Armageddon?"

Okay, for starters, this is inherently a really fucking stupid question. Armageddon is the end of all days. The end of everything. Nobody survives. Unless you are in God's little army of brown-nosing, goodie-two-shoes twats that got called up in the Rapture (and I suspect that if you are reading this magazine, you are not) then you are burning in Hell for all eternity. "What about your album?" you say. Oh right. You fucking idiot. Are you basing your world view on the title of a punk rock record? If so, you have absolutely nothing to worry about. Armageddon will not affect you. Just carry on with whatever you were doing. Everything will be ok.

For the rest of you, if Armageddon can't be survived, then we had better figure out how to avoid it. Of course, if it comes in the form of massive geological upheaval, or an interstellar demolition derby, we might well be shit out of luck. We are fortunate however, if you can call mankind's seemingly unfaltering desire to kill

each other and destroy our planet fortunate, that Armageddon will more than likely be self-inflicted. You don't have to look very far to see the seeds of it germinating in almost every country. Take our own country of Canada, for instance. Right now as I am writing this, 80 000 people are being evacuated from Fort McMurray, Alberta, as half the town is engulfed in flames. Fort McMurray sits barely 40 km from the infected asshole of the known Universe, the Alberta tar sands. The tar sands are already considered by many to be the biggest environmental disaster on the planet. I'm thinking that if that fire (which is already completely out of fucking control) was to make its way through the bone-dry brush to the tar sands, we would have to come up with a new word for environmental disaster. But does this make us stop and think about the consequences of our actions? Not for a fucking second. Fill 'er up with premium, motherfucker. And while I'm on the topic of oil. how about the way the so-called defenders of democracy (well that's not really fair is it, because the entire Western world is behind the insanity)



decided to take out the governments of Afghanistan, Iraq, then Libya, and in the process, train and fund an army of insane religious fanatics hell bent on bringing Jihad (Arab for Armageddon) to the entire world, with the hopes that they will take out Syria, a country that has the unfaltering support of America's old pals, mother Russia. I'm sure they won't mind. And this is all in the name of the war on terror? Get fucking serious. Everyone with half a brain knows that none of these countries were responsible for any terrorist attacks, it is the fucking Saudis behind it 100 fucking percent, but oh, they're the guys supporting the States and the goddamn petrobucks. So it's all about oil again. It always comes back to oil. Even global warming (Armageddon in slow motion) I don't know if it's real for sure, but it's starting to look like it might be. And what's the most likely cause? Fucking oil. We had better get our collective poop in a group pretty fucking quick, or there won't be anyone to write our obituary. So you want to survive Armageddon, park your fucking shitbox car and get a bike. It's good for

For more tips on Armageddon, check out Armageddon Survival Guide, the new release by Dayglo Abortions.



Absolute Live Reviews

Exits
Spaewife
A New Rhetoric
DV8, Edmonton AB

Howdy folks, it's been a while, so I have decided to start writing reviews again, and this show is a good place to start. It was booked by Wes from Locals Only as Mayday Hardcore, and featured three completely differentsounding bands. This was my first time seeing A New Rhetoric, and they played a pretty lively set. The band is from Edmonton, and I am not sure how long they have been around, but they play fast-paced, 90s-style pop punk, citing Propagandhi and Strung Out as a couple of their influences. I recently turned 40, so I was a bit out of touch with big label 90s punk in the 90s (My favourite bands in the 90s would be stuff like The Templars Oxymoron and the like). Not taking anything away from all those bands that were turning heads in the Warped Tour era, and even being an ol' bastard, I must admit that bands from that musical gene pool are always fun to see live - definitely a lot of youthful energy going on, and it sure kicks the hairy fuck out of grunge, which has, much to my chagrin, been shelved for a bit. The next band on the bill was Spaewife, once again I wasn't able to find out how long they have been around on their Facebook page, but in short, they are a very loud, very fast bunch of dudes. Lots of growly, grindy vocals and stuff, and I imagine if the show was attended a little better, a pit would have ensued for sure. Topping off the night was Exits. I really like these guys and they have been around at least since 2011. Exits have played all three DV8 locations now, so they have been on my radar for quite a while. It's pretty old-school hardcore, and they have some great guitar work woven into their songs. I've always leaned more toward bands with vocals you can out over the tunes, and these guys do that, which is cool. I guess with any type of band, the more attention you can spare, the more you are going to get out of a live performance... I was all ears for these guys, and look forward to working with them again.

Hellfire Special
The Devil's Sons
Tyre Iron
DV8 Edmonton Alberta

May 27, 2016

-Rod Gillis

I loved this show, and there was many an old friend on the bill, with a few of them even playing double sets. Tyre Iron is what I like to refer to as a "supergroup," simply meaning that it's a bunch of guys from rad bands of yesteryear forming a new band and rocking it hard. It's always great to see what's in store when these new bands come together. Tyre Iron is a hard hittin' rock band, I guess I'd almost call it "biker punk"... hard to say, but a couple of the guys have badass bikes and the band has that greasy, down n' dirty sound to it. It would be safe to say the majority of the lyrics range from kinda funny to really funny, with choruses like, "Ooooh, daddy likes leather!" Stuff like that - a pretty awesome new band, with roots from Bastard Son, Snakebite, Hellpreacher, Hellfire Special and Slippyfist, making them a new relative to my band, as well. Tyre Iron is a great party band, for sure. Next up was The Devil's Sons; this was my first time seeing or hearing these guys and I was impressed for sure. This is a straight-up psychobilly project featur-

ing Brad from The Grave Mistakes (an old favourite that started in Jasper) and upright bass master Fernando from The Preying Saints, Hellfire Special and The Fire-brands. I would say that The Devil's Sons are capable of spreading the twisted gospel of psychobilly to some new listeners around town, which is good because a lot of the younger showgoers missed out on a lot of fantastic bands that were going full force in the early 2000s. Musically it's a pretty fast-paced band overall, and Brad's vocals have always been great. I think this new material is a bit grittier than what he was doing with the Grave Mistakes, and that's alright, Mama - that's alright with me. The main event was was Hellfire Special, and it was great to have them in the new location. Hellfire is also in the "Played All Three" club - DV8's that is - and it's a great thing to have been along for the ride right from the getgo. I was almost in the band myself, but as far as vocals and lyrical content goes, frontman Zerk El Destripador is exactly what the band needs, in addition to a great lineup to make Hellfire Special a psychobilly powerhou that Edmonton can be proud of. They certainly haven't overplayed their stomping grounds, so their set has stayed pretty fresh and the band is still a hot ticket here in town. Kyle from Hellpreacher / Snakebite has recently become a full-time member, and we may see some slight lineup changes on the horizon, but as long as the brothers Hellfire keep at it, the band will be a local phenomenon worth catching, for sure.

-Rod Gilli

Stryker Spellcaster Torrefy Majora Logan's Pub Victoria, BC

April 29th, 2016

I showed up to Logan's around 9:00, and the place was already starting to fill up... lots of metalheads spilling into the street while all the elderly regulars looked confused. It was a decent vibe of people getting ready for a good Friday night full of metal, and then bam! The show started with Majora, from what I gather they're a Victoria band that just started. They hit the stage with some pretty good energy, playing classic heavy metal. They have solid form and a solid 80s sound and look, decent for a new band. I think they need a little bit of polish and practice, but they're on the right track. I'd like to see their next show to see where they're going.

Up next was Torrefy and, as usual, they took to the stage like they owned the place. Pretty soon into the set they were playing songs off the new album, and then another one that was about trees... and I totally forget what it was called. They kept a solid fast rhythm while John barked out a rapidfire vocal assault. The whole band gels together and plays so tightly. I think I've seen them more than ten times now, and they seem to keep improving; they have great live presence.

Luckily, the crowd didn't dwindle too much after the local bands were done, people were excited and stuck around as Spellcaster started soundcheck in a cloud of smoke. Now I know nothing of Spellcaster, and this didn't start as a good intro to them. I think the sound may have been off to start, but the band seemed off time. They sounded like they could play, but it was all muddy and didn't sound cohesive. I'm guessing this must have just been start-of-tour rustiness, because they

started to pull it together after the first four songs. After that, they started to redeem themselves and sound like a well-practiced, mid-eighties metal band. With the smoke machine, they had some good, retro-style gusto, it was fun to watch them get stronger as the set went on; they made a good strong finish.

As the smoke cleared, Stryker did their soundcheck and everyone got drinks... I wanted them to go wild. Stryker took the stage going full-in to their classic thrash sound. They've played hundreds of shows, and it's obvious in the tightness and technicality of this band. It's no wonder that these guys opened for Metallica; on the little stage at Logan's they were playing like they were in front of thousands. Unfortunately at this point, the crowd started to thin out because that happens when it gets late in Victoria, sometimes. This did not phase the band at all, and they powered on with great riffs and vocal stamina. They played a lot of their catalog and I swear I heard a Guns n Roses cover as I was getting a beer. All in all, I think it was a good show, and I had a better time that I would have at any other bar in Victoria this particular night. Catch this tour if you can!

-Michael F. Carnage



Real McKenzies The Hockey Fight Dickens Pub, Calgary AB March 17th. 2016

Down in the bowels of Dicken's Pub lies a deeply-rooted St. Paddy's Day tradition. Every year on March 17th, Vancouver's Real McKenzies treat the venue to a festive display of Celtic chaos. My night started off sitting in the back of Paul McKenzie's '83 Westfalia (a van as old as I am), dining on four-day-old, unrefrigerated veggie korma all the way from Vancouver, and sparking conversations about giant domesticated jungle cats.

With a roster of songs about everything sports, Calgary's The Hockey Fight were angrily ushered onto the stage by a man dressed in a ref costume. Black-eyed and bloodied, the boys began their set. It seems as though every time I see The Hockey Fight, they have a different defence line to BJ Killer's forward. Trying to ensue sing-a-longs with the crowd, BJ dove over the boards and took one for the team, singing at the audience face-to-fucking-face. Common cross-country sidekicks to the McKenzies, Montreal's The Boids were next. Signed to Stomp Records, this four piece pop-core-tet took to the stage, thrashing around like men possessed. Annihilating every note like it was their last, they ignited the crowd into a frenzy. Their extra long set was fucking fantastic!

Finally it was time for the finale, and The Real McKenzies bombarded the stage, playing a wide array of crowd favourites and new tracks from their recently released LP, Rats In The Burlap. Paul marched up on stage with a mission to round up the troops and deliver a performance worthy of this traditional night. The newest arrangement of Vancity scoundrels yielded not one but two bagpipe players. This turned out to be a good thing, considering Matty McNasty kept taking time-outs on the side stage to "regroup." The 'Kenzies finished the crowd by telling them to bugger off, and by providing the secret to what lies under the kilt; old balls. I don't think I will ever fully recollect the night in question. This whole article was pieced together through my photos and short flashes of memory... Must have been a great night.

-Lori Meyers

Mendozza As Ash Fell Run Like Hell Logan's Pub, Victoria BC June 4, 2016

Whoopy shucks, whoopy shucks, what a weekend for tunage at the tavern! You ever look around and get proud, seeing fellow enthusiasts of simple things like people making music? Do you ever ever just appreciate, amongst the backdrop of a sea of shit, the sticky floor of spilt beer, mosh pit, tears, and sweat? I felt like Strawberry, for three seconds as I thought to myself: "It's great to be alive!" and settled into Run Like Hell, who were having fun and being hokey. I was doing anything but running as the boys with the noise bombarded me with awesomeness, eventually parlaying into, "That's The Way It Is," a song that I've adopted as a mantra. Nope, this was a night where nothing was going to change on any "world level," yet I was fine with that, sipping an ale and witnessing some good, old-fashioned carnage. After having fun with their name and an obligatory Pink reference, RLH introduced a new one and dubbed it, "Song for Logan's and those that actually bother to come out." Yeah, I'll drink to that!

Next was As Ash Fell, and fall they must, as this most excellent ensemble treated attendees to some technically proficient metal with the introduction of a new rawking voice in Ashley, keeping faithful entertained and stoked for Mendozza.

According to Google, a mendoza carries the following definition: "A cry of anguish. A man can yell Mendoza in any situation, whether it be his soon-to-be-retired partner getting gunned down by organised criminals, or your dinner falling off the table thanks to an untidy housemate."

Works for me, man. There's something to be said for a 6'7" freak on bass, grooving on doom like he's in your room and has no plans to leave, a drummer who happens to be female and can bash with the best of them, sided by this dude that alludes to Zakk Wylde with little solo teasers in a most non-Shakesperean aside way. They all cohere and jam it down your throat, owning the castle and the moat. (Oh, and step outside, they might just sell you the boat, too).

The usual suspects were all there, songs from like eight years of dooming, from the earlies ("White Rhino") to a semi-new offering, "Testament of Hate," right into "Into the Void," that had the joint thinking like I did: "It's great to be alive!"These dudes slay!

There's just something to be said when you get it out of your head and leave it on the floor...

-Dan Birrell

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Absolute Album Reviews

Independent

Imagine windswept wastelands of massacred villages, flames still flickering, and corpses beginning to pile up. This is the cold, gothic metal sound these Vancouverite have conjured up for a



rimposiu

CANADIAN PREMIERE SCREENING OF THE BLEKKMETAL FILM

DUCERS: WIVEK VENKATESH (GA). DAVID HALL (GA) - CO-PRODUCERS: JASON WALLIN (GA). OWEN CHAPMAN (Executive producers: Ivah Birnson (no). Jannicke Wiese-Hansen (no). Kirsti Rosseland (no)

PANEL SESSION WITH FILMMAKERS AND FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS

3 JUILLET • FILM 19H30

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VA114 CINEMA, VISUAL ARTS BUILDING 1395 RENÉ LÉVESQUE OUEST

short EP of pale-faced amusement. All the songs have great sing-along choruses, which make this release quite radio-friendly, if the radio station operated out of a haunted funeral home.

In this musical casket are the remains of symphonic metal, thrash and even a few bones of folk metal. I really dig the blackened skies they paint in my mind as these teary-eyed lyrics really would confront anyone looking for a party atmosphere. Of course, this release also shows that goths do like to have one hell of a good time, just more in a wake-for-the-damned sort

of way.

-Dan Potter

Double Experience - Unsaved Progress

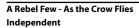
Colfax Music

After giving this album a listen, it's quite clear these guys have their ears tuned to popular rock formats. There is, however, a customized feel that shines through in the form of just enough guirks to save it from the dustbin of . aceless modern rock."See You Soon" is a great example of this unashamed melodic approach where "the geek as

overtop adventurous metal riffs that are totally more hangbanger worthy than a My Chemical Romance track.

The energy level of this album is consistently high, due mostly to the relentless comic book view on life that is brought forth through catchy chorus after catchy chorus. Each song is crammed full

of great musical ideas that really take a lot of pure talent to pull off. Whatever these guys' nerd-rock master plan turns out to be, it is certainly going to be a work of great evil genius



These guys take 70s hard rock riffs and turn them up to eleven, giving that denim jacket look a much heavier connotation. The lyrics are all about empowerment, which goes really well with the feel-good, bluesdrenched, groovy metal that seems to drip off each and every track with the ease of condensation rolling down the side of a cold beer on a hot sum mer day.

With undeniably catchy choruses that follow seething, fist-pumping verses, every song has single potential. The tight, crunchy rhythm second coming of



Dimebag as they hook you in to that southern grooviness and stick in your head after just the first listen. With the music stripped down to its most rockin' core, these guys are true architects of aggression, spewing out pint after pint of good ol'denim jacket-wearing, beer-fueled -Dan Potter

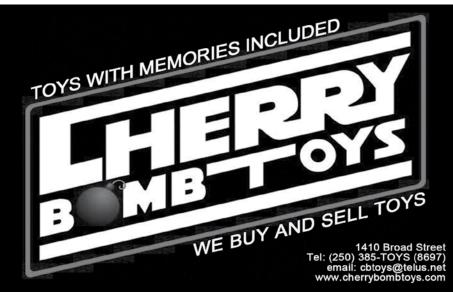
Van Halst -World of Make Believe Independent

Pile-driving guitar riffs and swirling operatic vocals power these songs beyond your usual metal experience. Every track is seductive and tasteful,

being sup-

substance due to the empowering song concepts. The Opeth-inspired haunting melodies and the Lacuna Coil-like atmospheres are given new life by a decidedly refined approach to songcraft.

The song "Questions" is a classic modern metal ballad, which brings out the dy-namics of the vocalist. Kami Van Halst's fierce lungs are tamed here, revealing her ability to also serenade you with rich emotion. The Euro-metal elements are put aside on "Monsters," which really kills with Halloween epic-ness and an extremely memorable chorus hook. This s an impressive debut album that is built to love right from the first listen. It's clear Van Halst as a band have found the right formula to keep all these well-used themes interesting well into the future

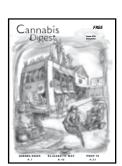


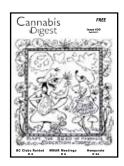
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Reclaim quality of life

■ Where cannabis is concerned, there has certainly been progress, at least in the form of campaign promises. Trudeau and the Liberals won a majority government and the new administration package comes complete with a mandate to legalize cannabis. Medical cannabis has been legal in Canada for over a decade and serving medical patients is the mandate at The Herbal-Health Centre (THHC) — where they continue to set industry standards for professionalism and compassionate care.

More than 2,500 patients have joined The Herbal-Health Centre for access to medical cannabis. Word continues to spread quickly and results keep people coming back. Over the past two years, THHC has been an advocate for the shift to non-psychoactive cannabis therapies. Patients report that these options offer relief from a host of symptoms, but without the "high" normally associated with cannabis use. These therapies effectively remove barriers for anyone who does not want to expose themselves to a mind-altering substance.

Non-psychoactive, CBD-specific formulations are gaining significant traction for addressing pain from inflammation and

seizure disorders. Topical applications in the form of salves, balms and lotions provide relief from joint and muscle pain. Patients applying these topically have also experienced significant, easy-to-see improvement with symptoms of skin cancers, psoriasis, eczema, chemical burns and other skin injuries. Suppositories infused with cannabis oils are gaining acceptance and recognition for their ability to deliver the benefits of full-spectrum cannabinoid therapy without making patients high.

The barriers for considering cannabis as a legitimate therapeutic option continue to fall and the number of patients exploring this option continues to grow. The professional, knowledgeable and compassionate staff at THHC are prepared to answer your questions about which forms of cannabis can help improve your quality of life.

Medical cannabis patients have driven the movement for access to cannabis. Legislated change is coming. THHC is part of the conversation to develop intelligent, workable policy and regulation for cannabis that considers patients first. For more information visit www.thhc.ca or facebook.com/theherbalhealthcentre. A decade of struggling with health issues led to 34 operations. Doctors prescribed a host of traditional narcotics with diminishing results and insufferable side effects. I couldn't work and had to go on social assistance to get by. I felt powerless...

Medical cannabis was something that I had never tried and the results were nothing short of a miracle. I was able to return to work and gain back a 'quality of life' for my family."

— Eric, Enderby, BC / Plumber

46-100 Kal Lake Rd (Alpine Centre) Vernon, BC VIT 9G1 778.475.3398 info@thhc.ca www.thhc.ca



Cory Campbell

Absolute Underground: Introduce yourself!

Cory Campbell: Cory Campbell

AU: Where are you from?

CC: East Vancouver, close to Nanaimo and Kingsway.

AU: At what age did you really get serious about skateboarding?

CC: I got serious when I came down to Woodwards here in Vancouver and rode out on a Duraflex skateboard, rode that baby home. That was a fiberglass board, probably $28^{''}$ long, maybe 5" wide, flexible and bouncy. I was about 13, and it was 1975.

AU: What can you tell us about the original skateboard scene here in East Van?

CC: The original scene started with myself and a couple guys that were my age. What we did was we had these hills by my house, and they went all the way down to a lake called Trout Lake.

AU: How did it develop from there? East Van eventually became this kind of central focus of radical skateboarding the 70s, didn't it?

CC: What happened was, at this point I was just into Evel Knievel. Evel Knievel was my idol. He still is my idol today. I was starting to get skateboard magazines from California and I read an article on a guy named Tony "Mad Dog" Alva, and was hooked. We started our whole scene off trying to be these people

from Santa Monica - they called themselves Dogtown. I was the originator of East Van. I am the guy that started the East Van cross.

AU: So you're the dude that drew the first

CC: I am the guy that drew the first East Van cross!

AU: It was obviously influenced by the Dogtown cross, and the letters fit perfectly. What year do you think what was?

CC: 1975, maybe '74... some claim Ron Daily [RIP] designed the first East Van cross.

AU: Can you tell us who the original rippers besides yourself were from that scene?

CC: There was a man named Don Brienza that was hangin' with us, also a man named Herman Hundle who idolized Jay Adams. I somewhat

idolized Tony Alva. He was the man. I was very impressed that he held all of these records and was the best pool rider I have ever seen.

AU: When did some of the others fellas come about like Brutus, Carlos and those fellas?

CC: In the first year or two they showed up. What happened was that we never stopped ripping the hills and bombing down hills and doing speed runs - I have three speeding tickets to this day from the VPD. I never paid no fines, but I was

AU: And that was on pretty sketchy equipment,

CC: Right, I was doing it standing up and also laving on my back, coffin-style. I was timed at 57 mph, which was pretty good in those days.

AU: What do you know about the Jaks Team?

CC: I've always been pretty comfortable skating with guys from my neighborhood, guys who hung around in the east van kind of... way. We would all go to a pool, there would be ten of us that would go. That whole scene was unreal. I'll never forget that.

Guys like Carlos Longo were only ten years old when I started. I was 14-15, so Carlos was a young guy. Just like when I was skating at Seylynn park, Sluggo was only ten years old, also

AU: Do you think you had much influence on someone like Carlos, for example?

CC: Absolutely. I would go get the kid. In '86 when expo was here, I was Carlos' manager, and we got Carlos on a Portuguese snowboard team. I took Carlos everywhere.

AU: So you were like his mentor?

CC: He had talent, I believed in him, and you know, his father did nothing for him, his mother did fuck all for him, his sister had a hard time and and took him under my wing.

AU: You saw his potential.

CC: Absolutely. I've got good memories of Carlos.

AU: What happened to the GNC demo ramp?

CC: As far as I remember, the GNC demo ramp was a big steel ramp that folded in. It was on wheels on a trailer, a tandem trailer, that was worth a lot of money. It was a heavy piece of steel. I was $15\,$ years old and I asked Rick Ducommun if I could borrow it for a demo. He was the owner of GNC prior to being the owner of Skull Skates. I asked if I could borrow it for a demonstration which was in Mission, a good 45 minutes away from Vancouver. The other guy that was doing a show was Evil Ed McVicker. He was jumping four Toyota trucks.

AU: He used to jump dumpsters.

CC: That's right. I pull this thing out there, and it's raining cats and dogs and somewhere in the $\mbox{\rm mix}$ I got in a car and went home and I never really know what happened to the ramp, and to this day I am guilty of not knowing where the fucking

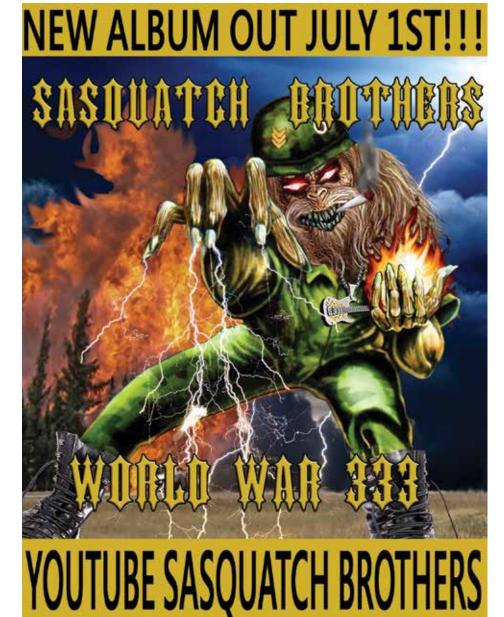
AU: So you just left the ramp out there.

CC: I heard it was in a yard out there, but we never got it. It could be scrap metal now. I don't know.

AU: What would you call your favourite skate spot?

CC: The best time I had was going down to Santa Monica, Marina Del Ray, Venice and riding the Marina Dog Bowl. That was the best experience of my life - everybody was there, including Tony

Transcribed by Malcolm Hassin PHOTO CREDIT: Jiles Barrett









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Neuterhead: Ace of Spays is a non-profit organization that uses rock n roll to raise funds to assist responsible pet rescue groups with the costs of spaying and neutering.



Cervena Fox -Vancouver Fetish Weekend

Interview by Ira Hunter

Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to and what are you most infamous for?

Cervena Fox: I'm Cervena Fox, I'm an alternative model from England who travels around the world tattooing and performing, as well as modelling! I'm known for my bright red hair and fox tattoo.

AU: What got you started in the fetish world?

CF: I started to do catwalks for local latex designers and found my love in the fetish world through the rubbery goodness! I have, since then, worn latex a lot when doing photoshoots and going out to local fetish shows in London!

AU: Career highlights so far?

CF: Highlights in my career have to be going abroad and performing in places I never thought I could ever go to. One springs to mind where I performed at a music festival with my fire group, Pyrohex, our music cut out while we were just going on stage because the DJ screwed up our CD. Everyone booed with us as we went forward and put our thumbs down and pulled faces at the DJ... then everyone [was] chanting "Pyrohex!" at the top of their lungs, I had no idea we were known then and it literally took me by surprise and I cried with happiness! I've always been passionate in my performing, both solo shows and in my group, really can't wait to debut my new show this summer at the Vancouver Fetish weekend!

AU: Are you looking forward to attending the Vancouver Fetish Weekend?

CF: Definitely! This will be my first time in Vancouver, I'm excited to perform my new act as it has a non-fire version and a fire version to it, so I hope the crowd loves what they see!

AU: What are somethings we can expect from your performance?

CF: Prepare to be shocked with the fire that's within me, through spinning fire, breathing fire and dancing on fire!

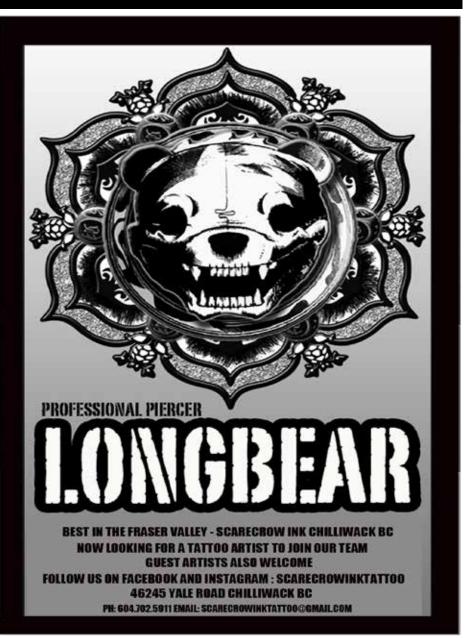
AU: Words of wisdom for newbies to the fetish realm.

CF: Keep a very open mind to what you see, hear and feel! The world is your oyster, so let's go have some fun!

AU: Anything else interesting on the horizon you would like to promote?

CF: I've just started to take my next career path in life, which is tattooing! I'm absolutely loving it so far and can't wait to see where it takes me as a person and my art level! Check out my work on my Instagram - @cervenafox

www.whosthatfox.com www.facebook.com/cervenafox www.twitter.com/cervenafox www.instagram.com/cervenafox



Absolute Comic-Geddon

By Ed Sum

Dark Horse Comics is celebrating the big 3-0!



Long-time readers of this publishing house's works will find plenty of reason to party. The Hellboy in Hell saga is coming to an end, *Aliens* is celebrating its own milestone. and a number of new movie tie-in material is set to arrive in stores come this autumn.

Amongst the list are new Alien vs. Predator, Planet of the Apes, Tarzan, Umbrella Academy and Buffy the Vampire Slayer tales.

In thirty years of being in the publishing industry, this company has provided fans plenty of thrilling material. They have a great relationship with 21st Century Fox, with movie tie-in titles like Prometheus and Terminator to add to the list. There are also more comics coming for Sin City, Avatar: The Last Airbender, Legend of Korra, How to Train Your Dragon. Not to be outdone, their flagship material — Hellboy and Godzilla (in my opinion) - helped define this company. While they no longer hold the licensing to Star Wars (it's moved back to Marvel Comics), their tales from a galaxy far, far away were grander in scope than what the early Marvels provided. I'm enjoying the new material, but it just doesn't hold a candle to the Dark Empire series.

Dark Horse then moved to bringing Japanese comics (manga) to the American mainstream. Lone Wolf and Cub, Akira and Ghost in the Shell paved the way for further titles, including my favourites: Gunsmith Cats, Trigun and 3x3 Eyes. Those were the early years, before Y2K. I also enjoyed reading the material offered in their flagship, Dark Horse Presents.

The turn of the century saw Dark Horse's shift into bookstore distribution. Titles like Ursula Bacon's Shanghai Diary and the series The Playboy Interviews did not go unnoticed. Fans of Joss Whedon's Buffy the Vampire Series were thrilled with a continuation of the television series in comic book form. This year's material offers further adventures, but set in Buffy's earlier high school years. Readers of Hellboy loved the first film, which released in 2004. Four years later, Hellboy II was released; fans and critics loved Guillermo del Toro's take of Mike Mignola's creation. During the years I've attended Emerald City Comicon, I've asked the creator what the chances are for a third film. The official word is that he just wants to make the comics. The movie, if it happens, depends on the bureaucrats that run the studios in Hollywood. While Ron Perlman would love to reprise the role and finish the trilogy, del Toro's left another mark that some company representatives still even talk about to this day. I briefly chatted with Dark Horse's representative this year and the rumour is that the director allegedly went over budget in both films. The chances are going to be slim for it to continue or wrap up. At least we have the comics to bring this saga to a proper close!

In what's recently been released or soon to be available, my picks include:

Aliens 30th Anniversary: The Original Comics Series Hardcover

Writer: Mark Verheiden Artist: Mark A. Nelson Publication Date: April 26, 2016

For the 30th anniversary of Aliens (the movie James Cameron helped turn into a megafranchise), Dark Horse is releasing an oversized hardcover edition of the unabridged and unadulterated series! This keepsake is great to lay on the coffee table, and for collectors like me, I don't have to pull out my original gems from storage. The story is still great to reread from time to time, and I enjoy looking at this piece to admire the attention to detail in Nelson's work. The pristine crispness of a black-and-white work can easily overshadow coloured work any day. I love the style.

From the summary offered online:

In deep space, a salvage crew is attacked by seemingly unstoppable monsters. The marines are called in, but they need someone with experience. Soon Hicks (the horribly scarred survivor from Aliens) and Newt (now almost eighteen) find themselves on a mission to locate and destroy the aliens' homeworld!

Prometheus: Life And Death #1

Ridley Scott's Monster Gods

Writer: Dan Abnett Artist: Andrea Mutti

Publication Date: June 8, 2016 Colonial Marines have commandeered a

mysterious alien ship—wresting it from the savage Predators who also wanted it. But now the owner of the vessel has awakened, and the marines find themselves trapped in space with an angry god! In reading an advance preview, the universe being built up (Dark Horse plans on creating a shared universe where all these space beasts live together) is getting to be very bloody. These Engineers are stoic, and they have no qualms squashing the marines like the bugs they are, in a darker agenda that's slowly being revealed. The tale written by Abnett nicely captures the same ambience offered in the film.

Weird Detective #1

True Monster Detectives

Writer: Fred Van Lente Artist: Guiu Vilanova Publication Date: June 15, 2016

The streets of New York have been plaqued by a pattern of crimes too weird and bizarre for the average detective. Lurking in the evidence are shadows of loathsome horrors from beyond space and time, seeking to usher in the unimaginable evil of the Old Ones. Only one man capable of fighting against the unspeakable terrors, and he isn't a man at all. Detective



Sebastian Greene is one of them—it takes a monster to catch a monster.

Fight Club Book Tour 2016

Featuring Chuck Palahniuk!

On June 28th, Dark Horse Comics will release the hardcover graphic novel of the full, ten-series run of Fight Club 2. To mark this occasion, Chuck will be matching that number with a ten-city signing tour! This is Chuck's first signing tour since Tell-All in 2010! Each fan at an event will meet Chuck, have their copy of Fight Club 2 signed, and up to two backlist books/memorabilia signed as well. not to mention a photo with Chuck! Before we post the dates though, we gotta set the rules out. After all, this is Fight Club, right?

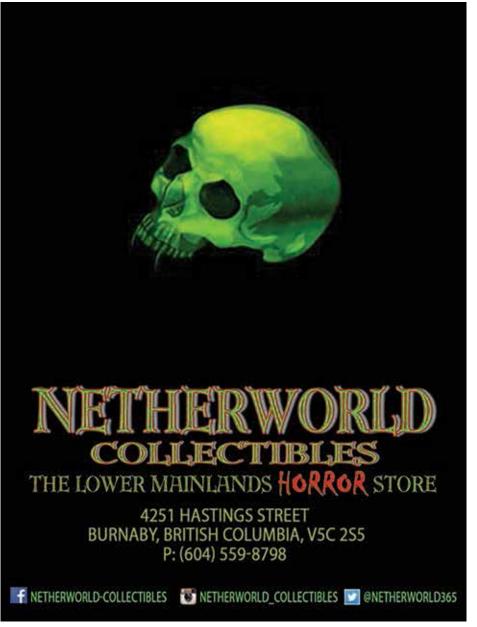
These Fight Club 2 appearances are signings ONLY. Chuck will not be performing or reading at any

These are ticketed events and each ticket will include a copy of the Fight Club 2 hardcover (\$29.99). Tickets must be purchased in order to join the signing line.

Line formation times will be posted at the links of each event location (please go online for a full list of locations)

darkhorse.com/







WEDNESDAY JUNE 22 DISTRIKT NIGHTCLUB (19+)

N D H E BUDZ TICKETS: \$14.50 - \$16.50 ADV.+ S/C (DOORS: 9:30PM)

THURSDAY JUNE 23 DISTRIKT NIGHTCLUB (19+)

THE BLACKWOOD KINGS - REBEL SELECTOR TICKETS: \$14.50 - \$16.50 ADV. + S/C (DOORS 9.80PM)

(FEATURING PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS FROM HEPCAT, THE AGGROLITES) SWEET LEAF - LOVECOAST - DJ DUBCONSCIOUS - \$3\$ ADV.+ S/C (2.30PM - 10PM) TICKETS: \$29.50

THE TRANZMITORS, IF WE ARE MACHINES, THE FABULOUS LOLO)

A DRAG SHOW BY SHANDA LEER - BOSS TAKEOVER TICKETS: \$16.50 - \$20 ADV.+ S/C (DOORS 9.30PM)

thursday june 23 lucky bar (19+)
N I N J A S P Y PARTY ON THE HIGH STREET MORE THAN MAYHEM TICKETS: \$14.50 - \$16.50 ADV. + S/C (DOORS 9.30PM) THURSDAY JUNE 28 SHIP POINT (ALL AGES/FULLY LICEN ORQUESTRA BRASILEIRA DE MUSICA JAMAICANA - THE SENTIMENTS BLACKBERRY WOOD - SKARATE KID - DJ LEXUS FREE (4PM - 1807

ENTANGAD S FABULOUS LOLO WITH PHONOSONICS

YOGOMAN -MARAFANI WORLD BEAT FREE (2.30pm-8pm)

CHEKO AND THE LION ROCKERS

SATURDAY JUNE 2S ODD FELLOWS HALL DOORS 9.30PM BOUSADA - BUCKMAN COE - MR.FANTASTIK THENETS: SIGNO WITH ANY SKAPEST THENET SIS WITHOUT IND ADE THENETS.

SATURDAY JUNE 2S 2016 130pm - 230pm

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